

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-01T06:24:21-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 1, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-01T06:24:25-05:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 1, 2018 at 5:58:36 AM EST  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018 6:00 AM EST**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Reuters: U.S. Interior Panel Votes For Lower Federal Offshore Oil And Gas Royalties.
- CNN: National Park Service: Most Popular Park Sites For 2017.
- Sunnyside (WA) Daily Sun-News: Report On Fight Against Invasive Mussels Released.
- Associated Press: Ex-Interior Officials: Zinke's Proposed Overhaul Unnecessary.
- Washington Examiner: Ryan Zinke's Special Assistant Resigns Over Anti-Muslim Views Shared On Social Media.
- Reuters: Trump Wades Deeper Into Biofuel Debate With Second Meeting.
- Politico: Trump's Mining Giveaway.
- Government Executive: House Democrats Request Subpoena Over Interior's Senior Executive Reassignments.
- MSNBC: Zinke May Have Pulled Official From Firefighting Duty For Tour.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Feds Approve Uranium Mine Expansions In Utah's San Juan County, One Of Them Near Bears Ears.
- Bend (OR) Bulletin: BLM Offers Tours To See Greater Sage-Grouse In Eastern Oregon.

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- For Many Republicans, Trump's Offshore Drilling Plan And Beaches Don't Mix.
- Don't Expect Oil Drilling Off Jersey Shore, Trump Official Tells N.J. Republicans.
- Cape Officials Join In Condemning Trump Drilling Proposal.

- Bipartisan Rally Against Offshore Drilling In Ocean City.
  - Hundreds Turn Out For Federal Meeting On Offshore Energy Development.
- Bureau Of Reclamation**
- Sacramento County Sues State Alleging Secret Meetings On Delta Tunnels.
- Fish And Wildlife Service**
- Oregon Public Broadcasting: Lawsuit Asks For Greater Protections For Rare Northwest Bird.
  - Associated Press: Fire Crews Burn 84 Acres Of Refuge To Help Longleaf Pine.
- National Park Service**
- WRC-TV Washington: Cherry Blossom Peak Bloom Dates To Be Announced Thursday.
  - Missoulian (MT): Park Service Releases Concepts For Sperry Chalet Restoration.
  - New Jersey Herald: Opposition Grows To Plans For I-80 Fence In Knowlton.
  - Kingman (AZ) Daily Miner: Grand Canyon Ready To Celebrate 100 Years Of National Park Status.
  - Bend (OR) Bulletin: New Superintendent For John Day Fossil Beds.
- Insular And International Affairs**
- Governor Invites Senator Murkowski To Visit NMI.
  - American Samoa Seeks Major Federal Disaster Assistance.
  - Local Students Debate Politics And Meet Influential Leaders At Junior Statesmen Winter Congress Convention.
  - Chicken Of The Sea Partners With Pacifical On MSC Certified Tuna.
  - Mānoa: UH Law School Offers Legal Training To Pacific Island Judges.
- Office Of Surface Mining**
- Nearly \$55.7M For PA To Reclaim Abandoned Coal Mines.
  - \$2.8 Million Grant To Fund Abandoned Coal Mine Cleanup In Eastern Oklahoma.
- US Geological Survey**
- E&P Magazine: USGS Study Finds New Frack Sand Source In River Sediment.
  - Oklahoman: Regulators Tighten Rules To Control Fracking-related Earthquakes In Central, Northwest And South-central Oklahoma.
  - Additional Reading.
- Opinion Pieces**
- Energy Interests Dominate Interior Department's Royalty Policy Committee.
  - Depending On China And Russia For Key Minerals Could Lead To A National Security Crisis.
  - Busting The Top Five Myths About Offshore Energy.
  - Why Fossil Fuels Survive.
  - Additional Reading.
- Top National News**
- New York Times: Media Analyses: Trump Stands Up To NRA, Appears To Embrace Gun Restrictions.
  - ABC: Trump Blasts Sessions Over FISA Abuse Probe, And AG Fires Back.
  - Associated Press: Hicks Announces She Will Leave White House Post.

**Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Donald Trump Gets A Lesson From That 'Very Bad Judge.'"
  - "The European Union Must Stand Up To Polish Nationalism."
- Washington Post.
  - "The NSA Chief Spelled Out The Russian Threat. Is Trump Listening?"
  - "Putin Is Getting Away With Murder In Syria."
  - "The NRA Is Finally Paying The Price."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "The White House Family Business."
  - "Trump vs. Jeff Sessions."
  - "Cleaning Up The Cleaned Up Tax Code."

**Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

**Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

**Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

**DOI In The News**

---

**U.S. Interior Panel Votes For Lower Federal Offshore Oil And Gas Royalties.**

Reuters (2/28) reports that the Interior Department's Royal Policy Committee voted Wednesday to recommend to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke that the Department "lower royalty rates for federal offshore oil and gas drilling to 12.5 percent from 18.75 percent through 2024, to spur more production." In addition, the panel voted "to increase the amount of acreage available for offshore oil and natural gas leasing in the outer continental shelf." The Hill (2/28, Cama) reports the committee panel included "officials representing energy companies, state governments, tribes and Interior officials" and that the "lower rate would apply to the value of oil and gas from drilling-rights leases sold starting this year." Two top Democrats on Congressional committees overseeing the Interior Department, Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), criticized the proposal and said, "This proposal would amount to a giveaway to some of the most profitable companies in the world and rob taxpayers of potentially billions of dollars of revenues over the life of the leases." The Hill (2/28, Green) reports Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) "sent a joint letter Tuesday night to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke" that raised "concerns over the Interior Department's expected decision Wednesday to lower royalty rates on oil drilled offshore." Cantwell and Grijalva believe "the rate drop would amount to a 'giveaway,' likening it to a 'fire sale.'" The two Democratic lawmakers also asked "Zinke to open up the RPC meetings to the public and allow for public comment." Additional coverage was provided by the Washington Examiner

(2/28, Siegel).

Bloomberg News (2/28, Dlouhy) reports the recommendations of the 20-member panel "are seen as potentially helping make U.S. waters more competitive with other offshore hotspots around the world, including Mexico's portion of the Gulf of Mexico. Oil companies hunting for new crude discoveries in U.S. Gulf waters have been pushed into deeper depths, where ultra-high pressures strain the capacity of equipment, make wells harder to drill and increase costs." The Washington Examiner (2/28, Siegel) reports the proposed amount will be "the lowest rate the government can charge for offshore leases" and will be recommended to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Interior Department spokesperson Heather Swift said, "The department will not be making a decision on this today. ... We look forward to reviewing the committees recommendations after they have been formally received." Zinke appointed members of the committee "after former President Barack Obama let it lapse during his second term."

### **National Park Service: Most Popular Park Sites For 2017.**

CNN (2/28, Hetter) reports that "nearly 331 million people visited the National Park Service's 417 sites around the United States in 2017, a slight dip from the 331 million record-breaking visits during its centennial anniversary year in 2016." NPS officials "expected the slight decline after the centennial celebrations during the previous year." However, the article notes, "while attendance numbers remained relatively stable, people actually spent more time in the parks in 2017 – more than 1.4 billion hours last year, an increase of 19 million hours over 2016." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, in a statement, "Our National Parks are being loved to death. As visitor rates continue at a high level, we must prioritize much-needed deferred maintenance including aging facilities, roads and other critical infrastructure. President Trump's proposal to establish a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund is a step in the right direction. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue, this is an American issue, and the President and I remain ready to work with anyone in Congress who is willing to get the job done."

***Zion National Park Ranks 3rd In U.S. For Number Of Visitors.*** USA Today (2/28, Demille) reports that Zion National Park "ranks as the third busiest in the U.S. after another record-breaking year for visitation in 2017." The park "drew 4.5 million, according to National Park Service figures released Wednesday." The article notes that "only Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee, with 11.3 million visitors, and the Grand Canyon National Park, at 6.3 million, drew more."

***Joshua Tree National Park Seeing Surge In Popularity.*** The AP (2/28) reports that Joshua Tree National Park is "seeing an explosion in popularity." The park welcomed "more than 2.8 million visitors in 2017." Park spokesman George Land "says reasons for the surge included a substantial wildflower bloom, an unusually warm period from Thanksgiving through New Year's, and growing popularity among foreign tourists."

### **Report On Fight Against Invasive Mussels Released.**

The [Sunnyside \(WA\) Daily Sun-News](#) (2/28) reports that the Interior Department on Wednesday "released a report highlighting the progress made in the fight against invasive zebra and quagga mussels, which can impair the delivery of water and power, diminish boating and fishing and devastate ecosystem health." The report arrives after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "announced in June a set of initiatives to protect western ecosystems and hydroelectric facilities from the destructive species through continued collaboration with western governors as well as federal, state, and tribal agencies." Zinke said, "I am pleased to share progress made on honoring those commitments. There is more work to do, and Interior is committed to continuing our efforts. With the busy boating season approaching, it is imperative that we are vigilant in taking measures to prevent the spread of invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species."

The [Boulder City \(NV\) Review](#) (2/28) reports that the Interior Department "spent \$8.6 million nationwide in fiscal year 2017 to address the issue." The department is "working on more than four dozen actions to address invasive mussels including preventing the spread of the species to uninfested waters, and containing and controlling them where they are established, such as in Lake Powell and the Lower Colorado River region."

### **Ex-Interior Officials: Zinke's Proposed Overhaul Unnecessary.**

The [AP](#) (2/28, Elliott) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's reorganization plan "to put more of his department's decision-makers in the field has a fundamental flaw in the eyes of some who spent their careers making those decisions: They're already out there." According to the article, "eleven former Interior Department officials with decades of experience in both Washington and in local offices told The Associated Press the agency already has a well-established system for decentralized decision-making." Scott Florence, who retired after 38 years with the Bureau of Land Management, said, "Ninety percent-plus of the decisions that get made get made at the local level." The issue, "some said, is that over the past few years, an increasing number of decisions that should have been made locally were ultimately decided in Washington because of political pressure, under both Democratic and Republican administrations." Additionally, "since 91.5 percent of the department's workforce of about 70,000 is already based outside the Washington area, most of the former interior employees said they doubted pushing more employees out of Washington would improve things."

Additional coverage of the reorganization plan was provided by [KBSC-FM Boise, ID](#) (2/28, Barnhill).

### **Ryan Zinke's Special Assistant Resigns Over Anti-Muslim Views Shared On Social Media.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (2/28, Siciliano) reports that Christine Bauserman, a special assistant to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, has

resigned after "a media report showed several instances when she made inflammatory comments on social media." Bauserman's resignation came "after a CNN KFile review showed that she posted remarks on Facebook and Twitter that espoused conspiracy theories, anti-Muslim and anti-LGBT views."

The Washington Post (2/28, Fears) quotes a statement from an Interior spokeswoman which said, "The positions expressed by Ms. Bauserman are inappropriate and unacceptable, and they are not consistent with those of the Secretary or the Trump Administration. ... The department has accepted Ms. Bauserman's letter of resignation."

Also reporting are CNN (2/28, Kaczynski, Massie), The Hill (2/28, Carter), and the Arizona Daily Independent (2/28, Hunnicutt).

### **Trump Wades Deeper Into Biofuel Debate With Second Meeting.**

Reuters (3/1, Renshaw) reports that President Trump on Thursday will "gather rivals from the oil and corn industries for the second time this week as the administration seeks elusive common ground on reforms to the nation's controversial biofuels law." According to the article, "the meetings come amid rising concern in the White House over the current state of the U.S. Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), a law requiring refiners to mix biofuels such as corn-based ethanol into their fuel, which has increasingly divided two of Trump's most important constituencies." Trump will be "joined by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who will be sitting in for U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue as he attends events in California," according to sources.

### **Trump's Mining Giveaway.**

Politico (2/28, Vinik, Michael) reports that President Trump's decision to shrink two national monuments in Utah will "give a huge windfall to miners." Due to the General Mining Act of 1872, "miners will be able to extract resources from the 1.84 million acres of land for just a few hundred dollars, reaping huge profits on land owned by the federal government." The article says that "this subsidy already costs Washington hundreds of millions of dollars annually – and without any legislative changes, Trump just made it even larger."

### **House Democrats Request Subpoena Over Interior's Senior Executive Reassignments.**

Government Executive (2/28, Katz) reports that Rep. Elijah Cummings, the ranking member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, "requested a subpoena of documents related to the reassignment of dozens of senior executives at the Interior Department, saying the Trump administration has so far stymied efforts to bring transparency to the decisions." Interior "sent 176 pages of documents...in response to a request he made in October." According to the article, "more

than one-third of that was a photocopied version of the 1978 Civil Service Reform Act, however, and Cummings said the rest was heavily redacted and failed to shine light on all of his questions." Cummings wrote his letter to Rep. Trey Gowdy, asking "Gowdy specifically to compel the department to provide unredacted documents and said the request falls 'squarely within our jurisdiction.'"

### **Zinke May Have Pulled Official From Firefighting Duty For Tour.**

MSNBC (2/28) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "may have pulled firefighting personnel for his helicopter tour last summer in which he did not visit any fire zones."

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Feds Approve Uranium Mine Expansions In Utah's San Juan County, One Of Them Near Bears Ears.**

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (2/28) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "issued final approvals for two uranium mine expansions in southeast Utah, including one on the backdoor of what used to be Bears Ears National Monument." According to the article, "in decisions signed last week, the BLM's Utah state director Ed Roberson approved the expansions, but with several conditions." Additional coverage was provided by the Denver Business Journal (2/28, Miller).

### **BLM Offers Tours To See Greater Sage-Grouse In Eastern Oregon.**

The Bend (OR) Bulletin (2/28, Stephen) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is offering a series of tours to observe greater sage-grouse breed. The tours on March 10 and April 7 will be limited to 20 people per tour.

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **For Many Republicans, Trump's Offshore Drilling Plan And Beaches Don't Mix.**

The Washington Post (2/28, Fears) reports that several South Carolina Republican legislators have broken "sharply with the president over his plan to offer oil and gas companies leases to drill a few miles off beaches that bring \$20 billion in annual revenue to South Carolina and support 600,000 tourism jobs." At Interior Department public "listening sessions" to "explain its proposed five-year lease plan – which would open 95 percent of the nation's outer continental shelf to potential drilling – a growing chorus of bipartisan opposition is finding its voice." The Post says the first wave of opposition came from "Atlantic and Pacific coast governors, congressional delegations and attorneys general," and now "state lawmakers, mayors and city councils are mobilizing in an attempt to stop the administration's plan." According to the Post, "Mark Harmon, the director of a state unit of the American Petroleum Institute, stressed a

different point. 'Ultimately it means the potential for jobs and reinvestment in the community,' he said."

### **Don't Expect Oil Drilling Off Jersey Shore, Trump Official Tells N.J. Republicans.**

NJ News (2/27, Salant) reports that after meeting with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday, Republican lawmakers from New Jersey were optimistic that the Jersey Shore would be excluded from offshore drilling. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) said, "If it's not off the table, it will soon be off the table." Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) observed that Zinke acknowledged "the area off the coast of New Jersey met none of the criteria for opening the area to oil drilling," as it lacked reserves and onshore infrastructure. LoBiondo also cited "unanimous bipartisan opposition." Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ) said, "It's crystal clear to the secretary that we don't want offshore drilling and he's going to have a fight on his hands if he tries to push it."

### **Cape Officials Join In Condemning Trump Drilling Proposal.**

The Cape Cod (MA) Times (2/26, Fraser) reports Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) hosted a gathering at the New England Aquarium on Monday "to condemn a proposal to reopen the ocean off New England to oil and gas exploration, and possibly drilling." Markey's gathering comes before the BOEM is scheduled to hold a public hearing Tuesday on the federal proposal. Markey said, "Unfortunately this public meeting (today) is nothing more than a sham in the Trump style - all show, no substance. ... I will exhaust all legislative tools to fight this." Opponents of the plan are preparing to stage "an anti-drilling rally" before the BOEM meeting. Brewster resident Christopher Powicki said, "We want them to know the opposition to this is deep, wide, and is going to be persistent."

### **Bipartisan Rally Against Offshore Drilling In Ocean City.**

The Ocean City (NJ) Patch (2/27, Bellano) reports a bipartisan group of New Jersey politicians gathered "against the backdrop of one of the Earth's most powerful natural resources" outside the Ocean City Music Pier to express their opposition to the Trump administration's proposed offshore drilling plan "and encourage the public to do the same." Ocean City Mayor Jay Gillian said the location was selected to serve as a reminder of what would be at risk in the event of an oil spill. Additional coverage was provided by WHYY-TV Philadelphia (2/26, MacDonald).

### **Hundreds Turn Out For Federal Meeting On Offshore Energy Development.**

The North State Journal (NC) (2/28, King) reports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management met Monday in North Carolina "to talk about a proposal allowing leases to develop oil and gas reserves in the 7.2 million acres off of N.C.'s coastline in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)," which



the State Journal says are "currently off-limits in the five-year leasing plan that expired in 2017." According to the article, if North Carolina is included in the next five-year leasing plan, "it is estimated to mean 55,000 jobs for the state and \$4 billion to the state economy by 2035."

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Sacramento County Sues State Alleging Secret Meetings On Delta Tunnels.**

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/28, Kasler) reports that Sacramento County is spearheading "a lawsuit accusing state officials of holding illegal secret meetings about the controversial Delta tunnels project." The county, "joined by the city of Stockton, several Delta water agencies and a group of environmental organizations, sued the State Water Resources Control Board on Tuesday." The suit alleges "officials with the state water board met privately and illegally as far back as 2015 with representatives of the California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the lead agencies planning the tunnels." In the suit, Sacramento County and the other plaintiffs claims the secret meetings provide evidence of "deliberate obstruction, and possible collusion."

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

### **Lawsuit Asks For Greater Protections For Rare Northwest Bird.**

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/28, Burns) reports that "an environmental group is suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to increase protections for a small ground-nesting bird called the streaked horned lark." The Center for Biological Diversity is "suing to raise the bird's status to 'endangered.'" The group is also "trying to get rid of an exemption for farmers and airports that threaten the lark's nesting habitat."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (2/28) and [KUOW-FM](#) Seattle (2/28, Burns).

### **Fire Crews Burn 84 Acres Of Refuge To Help Longleaf Pine.**

The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that "fire crews have burned a small section of a wildlife refuge to benefit longleaf pine trees, which require periodic fires to thrive, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said." According to the article, "most of the 38,500-acre Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Reserve is in Louisiana and its headquarters is in Slidell, but Wednesday's burn was in Pearl River County, Mississippi." Assistant Fire Management Officer Chris LeRouge "says the refuge hopes to conduct about two more prescribed burns before turkey nesting season begins in mid-March or April."

## **National Park Service**

---

### **Cherry Blossom Peak Bloom Dates To Be Announced Thursday.**

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (2/28, Jones) reports that the National Park Service will "announce peak bloom dates for Washington's cherry blossoms

Thursday." According to the article, "last year's peak bloom was predicted to happen between March 14 through March 17, but a cold snap damaged some of the blossoms and pushed peak bloom back five days." Currently, "the Yoshino cherry trees are in the first of six stages that culminate in peak bloom."

### **Park Service Releases Concepts For Sperry Chalet Restoration.**

The Missoulian (MT) (2/28, Byron) reports that "four concepts released to the public Wednesday for restoring Glacier National Park's famed Sperry Chalet dormitory range from stabilizing the walls but not rebuilding the structure – instead, setting up temporary yurts or wall tents for visitors – to reconstructing the dorm to as 'close to as it was' with some critical building code updates." Other options being considered are "to restore the dormitory 'in place, but modernized,' or moving the building's location so it's beyond recent avalanche activity." Lauren Alley, a spokesperson for the national park, "said the options are consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires the federal agency to assess a variety of effects for proposed actions before making decisions."

### **Opposition Grows To Plans For I-80 Fence In Knowlton.**

The New Jersey Herald (2/28, Scruton) reports that "a fast-expanding circle of citizens, governing bodies, elected officials and conservation-minded groups is becoming involved in efforts to stop or severely alter the state Department of Transportation's plan to build a wall along a section of the Interstate 80 that runs through the Delaware Water Gap." The purpose of the wall is "to keep rocks and boulders from falling from the cliffs of Mount Tammany onto the highway that runs between the base of the mountain and the Delaware River, which carved the gap." Additional coverage was provided by NJ News (2/28, Ionno).

### **Grand Canyon Ready To Celebrate 100 Years Of National Park Status.**

The Kingman (AZ) Daily Miner (2/28) reports that the Grand Canyon "celebrates its centennial anniversary next year and the National Park Service is marking the event with a new logo for 2019." The logo, "unveiled Monday by the National Park Service and Grand Canyon Association, depicts the Grand Canyon and one of its most significant geographical elements, the Colorado River, accompanied by the tagline, 'Go Grand.'" To promote Grand Canyon visitation during the Centennial, the NPS will "hold events throughout the year at the South Rim, North Rim, Desert View, Inner Canyon and surrounding gateway communities."

### **New Superintendent For John Day Fossil Beds.**

The Bend (OR) Bulletin (3/1) reports that "the National Park Service has selected Patrick Gamman as the new superintendent John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, the agency announced Wednesday." Gamman will

"replace Shelly Hall, who retired in August. He is expected to begin his work at the national monument in Eastern Oregon in late spring."

## **Insular And International Affairs**

---

### **Governor Invites Senator Murkowski To Visit NMI.**

Marianas Variety (3/1) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres last week sent a letter to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, "inviting her and the members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to visit the Northern Mariana Islands for an in-depth experience of the CNMI's economic resurgence and its goal of retaining its economic viability." The invitation arrives "on the heels of the recent Senate committee hearing on S. 2325, the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act." Since the hearing, Torres has "reached out to members of both the House and the Senate and has remained in discussions with them as the legislation moves through Congress."

### **American Samoa Seeks Major Federal Disaster Assistance.**

Radio New Zealand (2/27) reports that American Samoa is seeking a declaration that "would pave the way for more federal aid in the wake of Cyclone Gita." The cyclone has "caused nearly \$US7 million worth of damage to American Samoa's government buildings and other infrastructure." The request was signed and sent on February 25.

### **Local Students Debate Politics And Meet Influential Leaders At Junior Statesmen Winter Congress Convention.**

The Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR) (2/27) reports that "a delegation of eight Virgin Islands high school students recently attended the Junior State of America's (JSA) 'MidSoHio' (Midwest, Southeast & Ohio River Valley) Winter Congress Convention in Washington, DC, and brought home one of the coveted Best Speaker Gavels, a release issued late Monday." The students "spent five days in the nation's capital, where they debated dozens of student-drafted bills during a mock-legislative session, visited cultural landmarks, and met with influential leaders including Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, Congressman and Civil Rights pioneer John Lewis, and Douglas Domenech, assistant secretary for Insular Areas at the Department of the Interior." On February 16th, the group visited the Interior Department and "met with the leaders of the Office of Insular Affairs, including Assistant Secretary Douglas Domenech, Policy Director Basil Ottley, and Technical Assistance Director Charlene Leizear."

### **Chicken Of The Sea Partners With Pacifical On MSC Certified Tuna.**

Benzinga (2/27) reports that Chicken of the Sea has signed an agreement with Pacifical "to promote MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certified tuna sourced from the eight-member nations of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) in the Western Central Pacific Ocean."

### **Mānoa: UH Law School Offers Legal Training To Pacific Island Judges.**

The [University of Hawaii System](#) (2/27) announces that "the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa will offer legal training for another two years through a contract that brings judicial education to jurists throughout the Pacific, and also hosts them in Honolulu for intensive week-long sessions." The program is "part of the Pacific Islands Legal Institute administered by the Ninth Circuit Pacific Islands Committee, with funding provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior."

### **Office Of Surface Mining**

---

### **Nearly \$55.7M For PA To Reclaim Abandoned Coal Mines.**

The [Wilkes-Barre \(PA\) Times Leader](#) (2/28, O'Boyle) reports that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has "announced the availability of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation grants, which will provide \$55,657,898 million to Pennsylvania to reclaim abandoned coal mines." Rep. Lou Barletta "said funding for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands is a critical component in revitalizing Pennsylvania's coal communities." Barletta said, "I look forward to seeing the tangible ways in which this money will improve our land and water resources and drive economic development across the state."

### **\$2.8 Million Grant To Fund Abandoned Coal Mine Cleanup In Eastern Oklahoma.**

The [Oklahoman](#) (2/28, Wilmoth) reports that "a \$2.8 million federal grant will allow state officials to continue their efforts to clean up abandoned coal mines in eastern Oklahoma." The article

### **US Geological Survey**

---

### **USGS Study Finds New Frack Sand Source In River Sediment.**

[E&P Magazine](#) (2/28) reports that "sediment from the Missouri River Basin can be as used a fracking proppant, or frack sand, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said in a statement on Feb. 27." Ron Zelt, a USGS scientist and the lead author of the study, said, "Information from the new study could shift how deposited reservoir sediment is mitigated, and how recovered sediments potentially could be viable to various industries." Additional coverage was provided by [Oil and Gas Investor](#) (2/28).

### **Regulators Tighten Rules To Control Fracking-related Earthquakes In Central, Northwest And South-central Oklahoma.**

The [Oklahoman](#) (2/28, Money) reports geologists and regulators in Oklahoma "said they are on solid footing with revised rules they issued Tuesday to control fracking-related earthquakes in central, northwest and south-central Oklahoma." The new standards, "issued by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's Oil and Gas Conservation Division and the

Oklahoma Geological Survey, requires oil and gas well operators hydraulically fracturing a well to more quickly act to limit earthquakes associated with the process.”

Bloomberg News (2/28, Wethe) reports the OCC “announced that all explorers within certain areas must use equipment known as a seismic array, which detects movement underground.” In addition, the regulators “lowered the quake threshold for pausing work from 3.0 magnitude to 2.5, a level where humans can feel the earth move.”

UPI (2/28, Graeber) reports the U.S. Geological Survey on Wednesday “recorded a 2.9-magnitude quake in Fairview, an area prone to heightened seismicity.” KGOU-FM Norman, OK (2/28, Wertz) and E&E Publishing (2/28) also provide coverage of the new protocols.

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Willapa Bay Wetlands OK With Higher Seas.* Chinook (WA) Observer (2/28, Burns).
- *Hawaii Dumped 1.5 Billion Gallons Of Lava Into Pacific As Volcano Wall Collapses.* Forbes (2/28, Nace).

### **Opinion Pieces**

---

#### **Energy Interests Dominate Interior Department’s Royalty Policy Committee.**

In an op-ed for U.S. News & World Report (2/28, Alexander), Taxpayers for Common Sense President Ryan Alexander says the Interior Department’s Royalty Policy Committee is “well-represented with energy interests ready to profit from the committee’s recommendations” and lacks “any independent taxpayer voice.” The Committee has, so far, neglected to review royalty and leasing policies that continue “to cost taxpayers billions of dollars in last revenue;” and without “some dramatic changes, the Royalty Policy Committee could just be an echo chamber for the Trump administration’s agenda to fast-track leasing, decrease royalties and favor industry over federal taxpayers.” Alexander calls on the Royalty Policy Committee “to turn the process around” and remember its “fiduciary duty to the American taxpayer,” before it becomes “a case study in crony capitalism.”

#### **Depending On China And Russia For Key Minerals Could Lead To A National Security Crisis.**

Jeff A. Green, president and founder of J.A. Green & Company, a bipartisan government relations firm based in Washington, DC, writes in a piece for The Hill (2/28) that the Trump Administration understands that one of China’s “primary trade weapons” is its “near-monopoly over several minerals and materials that the United States military relies on to maintain its technological edge.” He says that in “recognition of such high stakes, the administration has made producing and manufacturing domestic

supplies of minerals a national security priority over the past year." The Administration has done so by issuing three executive orders meant to maximize the government's use of materials produced in the US, identify weaknesses in domestic supply chains, and reduce reliance on foreign sources for critical minerals.

### **Busting The Top Five Myths About Offshore Energy.**

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (2/28, Green), API's Energy Tomorrow Blog Editor Mark Green debunks the "top five myths about offshore energy" and says "oversight of state and federal officials have made offshore development safer than it has ever been – and continuously becoming safer because technologies are ever-improving." In response to the myth that offshore development risks spoiling coastal areas, Green cites comments made by Shell officials last year to US federal officials. According to Green, Shell pointed out that approximately 65,000 wells have been drilled in the Gulf of Mexico since World War II and "[a]ll the while, our industry has co-existed with commercial and recreational fishing, military restricted zones, tourism, recreational activities, and even in the proximity of marine protected areas, including the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary." Other myths debunked by Green include: offshore development is high-risk, offshore development is opposed by the military, energy from offshore sources is not needed, and offshore survey efforts hurt marine animals.

### **Why Fossil Fuels Survive.**

Robert Samuelson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (2/28) that the "real obstacle" to dealing with climate change is "our vast dependence on fossil fuels and the difficulty of extricating ourselves without crippling the world economy." While the Trump Administration "has withdrawn from the Paris climate agreement, making any transition harder," the problems "transcend President Trump's disengagement, as a new study from the oil giant BP makes clear." The study projects that "total use of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas and coal)" will "increase almost 20 percent between 2016 and 2040. The electric cars, renewables and fuel switching merely offset some – but not all – of the added energy demand from population and economic growth."

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Help For Martin County – And The Rest Of Kentucky.* [Ashland \(KY\) Daily Independent](#) (2/28).
- *How To Protect National Monuments From Trump.* [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/28, Frank).
- *Did The Clintons Finagle A Twofer, Including A Land-grab?* [Washington Examiner](#) (3/1, Pendley).
- *OPINION: Trump Administration Granting Big Oil Its Wildest Dreams?* [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (2/28, Weiss).

- *Our View: Government Must Listen On Ocean Drilling.* Gloucester (MA) Times (2/28).

## Top National News

### **Media Analyses: Trump Stands Up To NRA, Appears To Embrace Gun Restrictions.**

To cautiously favorable and at times stunned media coverage, the President yesterday appeared to support legislation opposed by the NRA and GOP leaders. His comments came at a televised White House meeting with 17 lawmakers. As the New York Times (2/28, Shear) reports, Trump "appeared to stun giddy Democrats and stone-faced Republicans by calling for comprehensive gun control that would expand background checks, keep guns from the mentally ill, secure schools and restrict gun sales from some young adults." Trump "repeatedly suggested that the dynamics had changed, in part because of his leadership in the White House, a sentiment that the Democrats in the room readily agreed with as they saw the president supporting their ideas." Roll Call (2/28, McKinless) reports Trump "told lawmakers if they combine their various gun-related measures into a bill in the ballpark of the ideas he endorsed on Wednesday, he 'will sign it.'"

☒ NBC Nightly News (2/28, story 2, 2:35, Holt) said Trump "stood up to the" NRA and "appeared to embrace new gun restrictions," while the ☒ CBS Evening News (2/28, story 2, 2:35, Cordes) led its segment on the meeting with footage of Trump saying, "I'm not into popularity. I'm into getting something done that's good." CBS reported the President "scrambled the partisan divide on guns...siding with Democrats on dramatically expanding background checks and raising the purchasing age for semi-automatic weapons." Trump was also shown saying, "It doesn't make sense that I have to wait until I'm 21 to get handgun, but I can get this weapon at 18."

☒ ABC World News Tonight (2/28, story 2, 4:35, Karl), which described Republicans as "livid" at Trump, reported that "the most pro-NRA president in history gathered together a group including some of Congress's most forceful advocates of gun control." ABC showed the President saying, "I see some folks that don't say nice things about me. That's okay. Because if you turn that into this energy, I'll love you. I don't care." Trump, added ABC, "repeatedly took positions that put himself at odds with the NRA and Republican leaders in Congress." In fact, Reuters (2/28, Rascoe, Rampton) reports, Trump "said he told NRA officials, 'It's time. We've got to stop this nonsense. It's time.'"

Amy Walter of the Cook Political Report said on ☒ Fox News' Special Report (2/28), "I think a lot of people, when the President was first elected and when he was inaugurated, thought that this was going to happen actually more often – a candidate who sold himself as this negotiator, a guy who was going to do politics differently, that he was going to create

these new and different kinds of alliances. This isn't actually that surprising for people outside of Washington because that is the Donald Trump they saw as candidate. I think it's a good thing for him to do as President because it puts it back on the issue here of a President who is not a traditional politician, is going to talk like a regular person."

Tom Bevan of Real Clear Politics said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/28) that Trump "has got goodwill with the base on some of the issues and on some aspects of the gun issue. The question is how far is he going to go and how much and how strong is he going to lead on this issue? We are going into primary season. ... It's an election year. It's not the best time for compromise to be had on the gun issue. So, it will depend on how much Trump is willing to push on this issue and lead."

[Politico](#) (2/28, Alexander) recounts that "Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.), the House majority whip, spoke up during a White House meeting in favor of a House Republican plan that combines a background-check measure with a provision that would make concealed-carry permits valid across state lines." Trump, however, "dismissed the idea, saying 'it'll never pass.'" The [AP](#) (2/28, Mascaro, Daly) quotes Trump as saying during the meeting, "We can't wait and play games and nothing gets done. ... We want to stop the problems." To [Politico](#) (2/28, Lima), "Trump took a hammer to Republicans' usual talking points Wednesday." Matt Vespa, writing for [Townhall](#) (2/28), called the meeting "a total disaster" and "pretty much was a capitulation to pro-gun control Democrats."

More cautious is the analysis in the [Washington Post](#) (2/28, Debonis, Kim), which saw the meeting as "reminiscent of a bipartisan White House meeting Trump convened in January on immigration, in which the unpredictable president promised to sign any compromise solution Congress could craft, only to reject the outcome days later. Behind the scenes, administration officials had sabotaged a bipartisan bill that inevitably collapsed." The Post also says Trump "sent so many mixed signals about what he envisioned for a package on firearms and school safety that he left Democrats gleeful and Republicans tight-lipped amid doubts that Congress would produce any legislation."

[Breitbart](#) (2/28, Hawkins) reports Trump "spoke of...using the Manchin-Toomey bill 'as a base' to which other gun bills can be added, and then continued taking comments from various senators and representatives in attendance." The [Washington Times](#) (2/28, Boyer) further reports that "in a surprise, Mr. Trump expressed support for reviving a Senate bill that former President Obama sought in 2013 to expand background checks to all gun sales." The Manchin-Toomey bill "failed to pass the Senate five years ago, receiving 54 votes instead of the needed 60," but the President "expressed interest in using Manchin-Toomey as a base for an overall bill, and asked if the lawmakers would consider adding a provision to raise the legal age limit from 18 to 21 for purchasing certain long guns." The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (2/28, Mauriello) reports that when Sen. Pat Toomey "confirmed that the




legislation he wrote with US Sen. Joe Manchin...doesn't address that," Trump retorted, "You know why? Because you're afraid of the NRA. ... I can say the NRA is opposed to it. ... These are great patriots. They love our country, but that doesn't mean we have to agree on it."

Trump, the Dallas Morning News (2/28, Gillman) reports, also "gave full-throated support Wednesday to Sen. John Cornyn's bill to beef up federal gun buyer background checks," and he also "called for confiscating guns from people who are mentally ill." Said Trump, "I don't want mentally ill people to be having guns. ... Take the guns first, go through due process second." The Morning News adds that after taking "a startling stance," Trump "reiterated it," saying, "Take the firearms first and then go to court." To USA Today (2/28, Jackson, Shesgreen, Gaudiano), it was just "one of many startling comments" Trump "made in a rambling White House meeting designed to hash out school safety legislation."

Trump, reports the Washington Examiner (2/28, Feldscher), made those remarks in response to "Vice President Mike Pence's statement that no one's rights should be trampled in gun control legislation." The Hill (2/28, Samuels) quoted Pence as saying, "Allow due process so no one's rights are trampled, but the ability to go to court, obtain an order and then collect not only the firearms but any weapons." The Wall Street Journal (2/28, Radnofsky, Peterson) runs a similar account of the session.

Moreover, McClatchy (2/28, Hill) reports, Trump reiterated "he will write an executive order banning bump stocks."

The President later took to Twitter and wrote, "It was an honor to welcome bipartisan members of Congress for a discussion on SAFE schools and SAFE communities. As we continue to mourn the loss of so many precious young lives in Parkland, we are determined to turn our grief into action."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar said on  CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (2/28), "It felt like something of a real discussion and that was important. Secondly, the President clearly committed to a strong background check bill, a strong universal background check bill. He said he didn't want a weak bill. It's clear he wanted to close the gun show loophole, that he wanted to do something about background checks. Of course, many of my colleagues that have been through the immigration debate in the last few weeks have seen him say one thing and the next day say another. So, we have to hold him to this, because the American people are very focused on this now, young people going to march in the streets, and if we do nothing after he has said this, I don't think that's going to work very well for him."

***Cuomo Criticizes Congressional Democrats As Too Timid On Gun Control Issue.*** POLITICO New York (2/28, Vielkind) reports "Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo faulted members of his own party Wednesday for not advancing tougher gun control legislation." Cuomo, "who is positioning himself for a potential 2020 presidential bid, told New York-based reporters on an unrelated morning conference call that New York's gun control laws are already very strict, and that federal action is needed to prevent mass

shootings like the recent tragedy in South Florida." Said Cuomo, "I'd like to see the national Democrats put a real gun bill on the table: full background checks, no loopholes, mental health database and ban assault weapons. ... I understand why the White House won't do it, I don't understand why the national Democrats don't do it."

***Florida Polls Finds Support For Assault-Weapons Ban, Opposition To Arming Teachers.*** The South Florida Sun Sentinel (2/28, Man) reports "the latest poll of Florida voters, released Wednesday, shows a broad consensus in favor of stricter gun laws, including a ban on assault weapons, and opposition to arming teachers." In effect, the poll "found some of what most Florida voters want [is] the opposite of what the Florida Legislature is working on."

The Miami Herald (2/28, Vassolo, Smiley) reports a Quinnipiac survey "found that 62 percent of voters favor a ban on assault weapons, and about two-thirds support 'stricter gun laws,' like universal background checks or a ban on the sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines, while 56 percent oppose arming faculty members." Those "results closely mirror those from a separate poll conducted by Florida Atlantic University's Business and Economic Polling Initiative and also released Wednesday." That poll found "nearly 70 percent of people in the state want to see a ban on the sale of assault-style weapons and support stricter gun laws." The FAU survey, says Politico (2/28, Caputo), also found "56 percent of voters opposed arming teachers."

In an editorial, the Tampa (FL) Tribune (2/28) argues "Florida parents should not send their kids to school wondering whether the math teacher, the kindergarten teacher or the football coach secretly carries a gun," and "yet the Florida Legislature appears poised to approve a risky scheme that envisions 10 armed teachers in every school who are prepared to respond to a mass shooter." To the Tribune, "many students who embrace teachers as mentors and role models would eye all of them with new suspicion, since which teachers had guns would be secret." Moreover, "minority students who already are disciplined disproportionately and often coached by parents to be cautious around police would be particularly affected."

***Morning Consult/Politico National Poll Finds Public Supports Arming Teachers 50%-42%.*** Breitbart (2/28, Hawkins) reports "a February 22-26 poll conducted by Morning Consult/Politico shows that voters support arming teachers in the wake of the Florida school shooting. The margin of support was 50% to 42%."

***Father Of Shooting Victim Calls On Trump To Denounce Threats Against Survivors, Families.*** The Washington Post (2/28, Wong) reports "the father of a 14-year-old girl who was gunned down in Parkland...has called on...Trump to address threats against student survivors and their families - many of whom have been outspoken about their desire for tighter gun-control laws." Fred Guttenberg "spoke to CNN about the occasionally vicious attacks against the survivors," saying, "We need our President

Trump today to address it publicly and demand that everyone who is making these threats stop."

***Marjory Stoneman Douglas High Reopens After Deadly Shooting.*** The [AP](#) (2/28, Kennedy, Spencer, Replogle) reports that "students and teachers hugged and cried Wednesday as they returned under heavy police guard to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High for the first time since" the shooting. The AP says that "on the way in, teens were guarded by hundreds of police officers," who in turn "were accompanied by comfort animals, including dogs, horses and a donkey." The AP adds that "after school dismissed, members of the Guardian Angels wearing their trademark red berets lined the streets at a crosswalk."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/28, story 3, 2:25, Daiz) said "the day started with fourth period so students could be reunited with the classmates they were with during the shooting." The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (2/28, Travis, Solomon, Geggis) reported the students "observed 17 seconds of silence in first period, one for each victim," and "were given goodies, like bagels and cream cheese, and comfort from 40 therapy dogs. And there were hugs all around." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/28, story 4, 2:30, Sanders) reported "officials say 95 percent of the 3,000-plus students who go to school here showed up today. Fifteen students have told the school principal they don't think they can ever come back to this school." The [Miami Herald](#) (2/28, Harris) reports "it wasn't a normal school day," but "it was a first step." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/28, story 3, 2:25, Muir) similarly recounted the "emotional return to school...for the students in Parkland," while the [New York Times](#) (2/28, Healy), among other new outlets, also reports the story.

***Florida Strawberry Festival Allows Guns, But No Beer Or Pets.*** The [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (2/28, Cridlin) reports from Plant City, FL that "you can't buy a beer at the Florida Strawberry Festival. You can't bring a bottle of water or a dog that's not a service animal." However, "you can...sit in the front row of a Reba McEntire concert with a Smith & Wesson holstered to your chest" or "ride the Space Roller with a handgun." Said Festival President Paul Davis, "We do not encourage you to bring your weapon on grounds. ... But if you have a legal right to do it, then you can do it."

***Georgia Teacher In Custody After Firing Gun In Classroom.*** The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (2/28) reports "a North Georgia teacher, known as the longtime radio voice of Dalton High School football and basketball, is in custody after he fired at least one shot inside a classroom Wednesday, police said." The incident "sent panicked students running through hallways and alarmed parents who were already on edge in the wake of a mass shooting at a Florida high school earlier this month."


The [Washington Post](#) (2/28, Truong) recounts that "Jesse Randall Davidson, a 53-year-old social studies teacher, barricaded himself inside a classroom at Dalton High School on Wednesday morning, according to Tweets from the Dalton Police Department." [USA Today](#) (2/28, Stanglin) further reports that "officers persuaded the teacher to surrender without

incident after about 30 to 45 minutes,” and “no one was injured aside from a female student who hurt her ankle while rushing to evacuate Dalton High School.”

***GOP Rep. Young References Holocaust In Arguing Against Gun Control.***

The Washington Post (2/28, Debonis) reports that Rep. Don Young (R-AK), “recently argued against gun control to constituents by suggesting that Jews could have avoided perishing in the Holocaust if they had armed themselves.” Citing a report from Alaska Public Media, the Post says Young last week told a gathering of the Alaska Municipal League, “How many millions of people were shot and killed because they were unarmed? Fifty million in Russia because their citizens weren’t armed. How many Jews were put into the ovens because they were unarmed?”

***Dick’s Sporting Goods, Which Sold A Gun To Cruz, To Stop Selling Assault-Style Rifles.*** The Los Angeles Times (2/28, Masunaga) reports “Dick’s Sporting Goods said Wednesday that it will no longer sell assault-style rifles or high-capacity magazines and will not sell guns to anyone under 21 after the shooting massacre at a Parkland.” The retailer is also “taking a strong stance on gun control, saying in its statement that ‘thoughts and prayers are not enough’ and calling for elected officials to enact a ban on assault-style weapons. It will continue to sell other firearms.”

USA Today (2/28, Hafner, Bomey) reports CEO Edward Stack told ABC’s “Good Morning America” that “Dick’s sold a shotgun to the Parkland school shooter through one of its stores last November,” and “though the gun wasn’t used in the shooting, the revelation spurred the company toward action.” The Washington Post (2/28, Siegel) quotes Stack as saying, “We did everything by the book, and we did everything that the law required, and he was still able to buy a gun.”  NBC Nightly News (2/28, story 3, 2:45, Holt) said Dick’s move “could be a tipping point in a growing corporate response to the Florida school shooting,” and showed Stack saying, “We don’t want to be part of the story any longer.”

In an interview with the New York Times (2/28, Creswell), Stack said, “When we saw what happened in Parkland, we were so disturbed and upset. ... We’re going to take a stand and step up and tell people our view and, hopefully, bring people along into the conversation.” The Times adds that “in 2012, after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School that killed 26 people, Dick’s removed assault-style rifles from its main retail stores.” However, “a few months later, the company began carrying the firearms at its outdoor and hunting retail chain, Field & Stream.” Stack said this time “the changes will be permanent.”

The  CBS Evening News (2/28, story 4, 0:50, Glor) reported that “now just one major retailer will still sell assault-style weapons: Bass Pro Shop, which also owns Cabela’s. Wal-Mart, the nation’s largest retailer, stopped selling the weapons in 2015.” The Wall Street Journal (2/28), among other news outlets, also reports on Dick’s decision. Another Wall Street Journal (2/28, Fuhrmans, Feintzeig) piece, meanwhile, remarks on

the pressure felt by CEOs to take a stand on the gun issue, coming from activists and younger consumers.

USA Today (2/28) editorializes that "in the face of uncertainty on Capitol Hill, another option for...strong-willed" activist "students is to pressure corporations to step in where Congress fears to tread." The students "notched one victory on this front Wednesday when a major retailer, Dick's Sporting Goods, said it would stop selling assault-style rifles altogether, and block sales of high-capacity magazines and other guns to anyone under 21." USA Today adds that "the action by Dick's follows decisions by a host of companies – including United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Best Western and MetLife – to sever discount deals with the National Rifle Association, even in the face of thuggish threats by NRA supporters." Along similar lines, the Washington Post (2/28) writes in an editorial that "companies that once saw value in partnering with the National Rifle Association have decided to end their connections with the organization." To the Post, "what the NRA ignores is that the Constitution it so often lauds gives citizens the right to decide with whom to do business. The NRA's alienation of a large mass of consumers is its own responsibility."

***Walmart Raises Age For Buying Firearms, Ammunition To 21.*** Politico (2/28, Morin) reports Walmart "announced on Wednesday that it would no longer sell guns and ammunition to those younger than 21." The company said in a statement, "In light of recent events, we've taken an opportunity to review our policy on firearm sales. ... Going forward, we are raising the age restriction for purchase of firearms and ammunition to 21 years of age. We will update our processes as quickly as possible to implement this change."

The AP (2/28) notes "Walmart Inc. stopped selling AR-15 guns and other semi-automatic weapons in 2015." The company "doesn't sell bump stocks, the accessory attached to a semi-automatic gun that makes it easier to fire rounds faster. It also doesn't sell large-capacity magazines. It also says it doesn't sell handguns, except in Alaska."

***After NRA Flap, Georgia Governor Agrees To Sign Tax Bill Without Tax Break For Delta.*** The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (2/28, Bluestein) reports Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal "said he would reluctantly support a measure that stripped a lucrative tax break for Delta Air Lines but also includes broader cuts to the state's income tax rate." Deal "was a vocal supporter of the tax break, which would have slashed the \$50 million jet fuel tax exemption."

### **Trump Blasts Sessions Over FISA Abuse Probe, And AG Fires Back.**

President Trump took to Twitter yesterday to ask, "Why is A.G. Jeff Sessions asking the Inspector General to investigate potentially massive FISA abuse. Will take forever, has no prosecutorial power and already late with reports on Comey etc. Isn't the I.G. an Obama guy? Why not use Justice Department lawyers? DISGRACEFUL!" The tweet, as well as Sessions' reply, generated extensive cable, print and online coverage.

Nearly all of it – including some analyses on conservative outlets – was very unfavorable toward Trump.

☒ [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/28, story 6, 2:00, Pierre) was only major network newscast to note the story last night. ABC said “the President has made his frustration with his Attorney General well-known for months,” but “for the first time,” Sessions “stood up to the President, writing in a statement, quote, ‘We have initiated the appropriate process that will ensure complaints against this department will be fully and fairly acted upon if necessary. As long as I am the Attorney General, I will continue to discharge my duties with integrity and honor.’” Pierre Thomas added that “sources say the message from Sessions was blunt: ‘Let me do the job as I see fit, or fire me.’” To the [Washington Times](#) (2/28, Miller), meanwhile, Sessions “declared he wasn’t quitting yet.”

[USA Today](#) (2/28, Jackson) indicates that “not since July has Trump launched such pointed broadsides against his attorney general, who was one of Trump’s earliest and most vocal supporters,” and [Reuters](#) (2/28, Landay, Lynch) that “the latest fracas began with Trump flaying Sessions for having Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz – not prosecutors – examine how the agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation obtained a warrant to monitor a former Trump campaign adviser, Carter Page.”

The [Washington Post](#) (2/28, Zapotosky, Demirjian) reports Trump’s tweet “takes some liberties with the facts.” [Politico](#) (2/28, Lima, Gerstein), for example, says “despite Trump’s suggestion that Horowitz is an ‘Obama guy,’ Horowitz has been appointed to roles by presidents of both parties. He held Justice Department positions under four presidents: George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama, who appointed him inspector general in 2012.” Moreover, the [AP](#) (2/28, Tucker) reports, “the report” Trump “suggests is late is actually not,” and “the office he attacks as toothless has more power than he credits it with.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/28, Tanfani) reports Trump “has shredded long-standing norms by repeatedly attacking his own FBI and Justice Department,” while the [New York Times](#) (2/28, Sullivan) refers to “the latest example of Mr. Trump...wading into Justice Department investigations.” The Times adds that “previous presidents have allowed law enforcement a large degree of independence to keep from influencing their inquiries,” but Trump “has consistently called for investigations into his political rivals and he has criticized Mr. Sessions for not being more aggressive.”

The [AP](#) (2/28, Gurman) says that “this time” Trump “is angry that Sessions referred the allegations of employee misconduct to the inspector general, but that’s exactly what that office is charged with doing. Its lawyers are part of the department and, contrary to Trump’s claims, can and often do refer matters for prosecution.” In fact, “Horowitz also launched the review of the FBI’s handling of the Clinton case — the stated reason by Trump and Sessions for the dismissal of [former director] Comey

in May." The New York Post (2/28, Fredericks), The Hill (2/28, Fabian) and Wall Street Journal (2/28, Wilber, Viswanatha), among other news outlets, run similar reports.

Guy Benson, writing for Townhall (2/28), says that "setting aside the unseemly spectacle of Trump routinely humiliating of his own Attorney General – whom he clearly wants to serve as his personal political lapdog – Sessions has been correct in each of the instances that have drawn his boss' ire." Benson adds that "if Trump wants a reckless, legal advice-ignoring Attorney General, he should fire Sessions."

In an editorial, meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (2/28) questions the wisdom of a CEO who berates his top subordinates in public the way Trump has with Sessions, and urges to President to order his Attorney General to appoint someone at DOJ whose job would be to make all documents pertinent to the FISA abuse probe available to the public.

Rep. Ron DeSantis said on Fox News' The Ingraham Angle (2/28) that Sessions "is a fine guy, but he doesn't have any prosecutorial power. He can't hold anyone accountable. He will take a year and a half to write a report and offer recommendations. ... You need a special counsel who can actually pursue those matters, somebody from outside the Justice Department, who is not afraid to upend the apple cart. That's what we need in this situation. The IG is just not going to cut it."

Sen. Ron Wyden said on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (2/28), "I think it is just bizarre. I don't know any other way to characterize it. The reality is, is the President again not really understanding the function of the job. I mean no President is above the law. The position that Jeff Sessions holds means he's got to follow the law. It's not as if he's just working for the President. He's working for the American people."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries said on CNN's Situation Room (2/28), "Trump obviously misunderstands the role of the attorney general. The attorney general is the people's attorney. The White House counsel is the President's attorney. And so Jeff Sessions is correct in following procedures in this instance as it relates to the investigation."

Rep. Jerrold Nadler was asked on CNN's Situation Room (2/28) if Trump's comments are designed to get Sessions to resign. Nadler said, "It may very well be because if Sessions were to resign – remember, he's recused from the Russia investigation. The President could appoint someone else who was not recused who might then be able to fire Rosenstein or Mueller and sabotage the investigation and that clearly would be very much to the detriment. We must get to the bottom of the Russian interference in our election and we must get to the bottom of why the President refuses now to authorize our intelligence agencies to protect us against the Russian interference in our next election."

Former US Attorney Preet Bharara said on CNN's Situation Room (2/28), "This is just another step in a series of steps the President has taken publicly to, A – discredit his attorney general who he picked and who he had work with him on his campaign, and also, to sort of try to direct

who is involved in what investigations and what the results should be.”

David Swerdlick of the Washington Post said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (2/28) that “the President continues to either not understand or not acknowledge that he understands that the role of the attorney general is not to be the President’s personal attack dog, not to be his Roy Cohn, as the President has been quoted as saying.” Swerdlick added that Trump “is sending a message to all of his close advisers, ‘If you get crosswise with me, I am going to be merciless and it will never end.’”

***Gowdy Praises Horowitz, Says He Has “Complete Confidence In Him.”*** [Bloomberg News](#) (2/28, Talev, Strohm) reports “the Republican chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Trey Gowdy, who regularly clashed with the Obama administration and Clinton, defended Horowitz as an impartial investigator.” Said Gowdy, “I have had a number of interactions with Inspector General Horowitz, including as recently as earlier this month. ... He has been fair, fact centric, and appropriately confidential with his work.” Added Gowdy, “He was confirmed by the US Senate without a single dissent. ... I have complete confidence in him and hope he is given the time, the resources and the independence to complete his work.”

***Sources Say Mueller Looking Into Trump’s Public Attacks On Sessions Last Summer.*** The [Washington Post](#) (2/28, Barrett, Dawsey, Helderman) reports “Special counsel Robert S. Mueller III has been investigating a period of time last summer when...Trump seemed determined to drive...Sessions from his job, according to people familiar with the matter who said that a key area of interest for the inquiry is whether those efforts were part of a months-long pattern of attempted obstruction of justice.” The Post adds “in recent months, Mueller’s team has questioned witnesses in detail about Trump’s private comments and state of mind in late July and early August of last year...to determine whether the president’s goal was to oust Sessions.”

***Trump Privately Refers To Sessions As “Mr. Magoo.”*** In a story about the Mueller investigation’s take on the Trump-Sessions discord, the [Washington Post](#) (2/28, Barrett, Dawsey, Helderman) reports that “behind the scenes, Trump has derisively referred to Sessions as ‘Mr. Magoo,’ a cartoon character who is elderly, myopic and bumbling, according to people with whom he has spoken.” Trump has also “told associates that he has hired the best lawyers for his entire life, but is stuck with Sessions, who is not defending him and is not sufficiently loyal.”

***Thirteen House Republicans Call On Sessions To Appoint Second Special Counsel.*** The [Hill](#) (2/28, Manchester) reports that in a letter, “thirteen House Republicans are calling on...Sessions to appoint a second special counsel to investigate Hillary Clinton.” These “conservative lawmakers sent a letter to Sessions on Wednesday requesting that he appoint a special counsel to investigate the end of the Clinton email probe, the start of the investigation into Russia’s election meddling and alleged surveillance abuses by the FBI.” The Hill adds, “The letter’s signers were GOP Reps. Lee Zeldin (N.Y.), Mark Meadows (N.C.), Jim Jordan (Ohio), Claudia Tenney



(N.Y.), Francis Rooney (Fla.), Matt Gaetz (Fla.), Ted Budd (N.C.), Jody Hice (Ga.), Scott Perry (Pa.), Paul Gosar (Ariz.), Andy Harris (Md.), Louie Gohmert (Texas) and Dave Brat (Va.).”

***Hannity Defends Trump, Also Calls For New Special Counsel.*** Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (2/28), “In this case, I believe the President is right.” Hannity added that “it is time, knowing the facts as we have them, which are incontrovertible and overwhelming that the Attorney General has to do his job, serve the American people, and, yes, the rule of law and the Constitution. And Jeff Sessions, if he is not up to the task, if he wants to create a two tiered justice system, well, we have other options. How about just appoint special counsel?”

### **Hicks Announces She Will Leave White House Post.**

Hope Hicks’ announcement that she is leaving her White House job generated extensive media coverage, including the lead reports on all three major network newscasts. The coverage, which cast Hicks’ departure as a big surprise, highlighted her close ties to the President, as well as a sense of personnel upheaval in the wake of other high-profile departures from the White House. Despite unequivocal White House denials, some reports also suggested it was no coincidence that the news came one day after Hicks testified before the House Intel Committee, while others speculated her ties to disgraced former aide Rob Porter may have played a role in her decision.

The [AP](#) (2/28, Miller, Colvin) reports “White House officials and outside advisers suggested Hicks’ departure would strengthen chief of staff John Kelly’s control over what has been an oftentimes chaotic West Wing.” In a statement, “Kelly said Hicks had become ‘a trusted adviser and counselor,’ but behind the scenes the pair had occasionally clashed over her more informal role.” [CNN](#) (2/28, Acosta, Diamond, Collins, Liptak), meanwhile, “Hicks and Kelly enjoyed an amiable working relationship and did not feud in the way the retired Marine general has with other top officials,” and the [New York Times](#) (2/28, Haberman) further quotes Kelly as saying, “I quickly realized what so many have learned about Hope: She is strategic, poised and wise beyond her years. ... She became a trusted adviser and counselor, and did a tremendous job overseeing the communications for the president’s agenda including the passage of historic tax reform. She has served her country with great distinction.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (2/28, Nelson, Morrongiello) reports White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said “there’s ‘no definitive timeline’ on when she’ll leave her role.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/28, lead story, 2:40, Holt) led with the story, and referred to a “bombshell change at the White House.” NBC (Jackson) later spoke of “another dramatic departure in the West Wing: This time, someone who might as well be family to Donald Trump.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/28, lead story, 3:25, Brennan) called Hicks the President’s “longest-serving political aide and his most trusted.” The White

House "says she had been considering leaving her position for months, and now she wants to take on a job outside of government." The announcement "came a day after she testified before the House Intelligence Committee, which is investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election. Sources say she told the committee that her work for the President required her to tell white lies, but she never lied about Russia." CBS added that there have been "a lot of departures" from Trump's team, but "there's always turnover at the end of the first year of an administration due to burnout."

The AP (2/28, Miller, Colvin), however, refers to Hicks' departure as "just the latest manifestation of historic staff churn in the Trump administration," and USA Today (2/28, Korte) reports Hicks "was the fourth White House communications director of the Trump White House, and the longest serving — following the often chaotic tenures of Sean Spicer, Michael Dubke and Anthony Scaramucci."

☒ ABC World News Tonight (2/28, lead story, 3:40, Muir) said in its lead story, "Tonight, the growing list of departures right there on your screen. A little more than a year into this Administration, starting with Michael Flynn. The firings, the resignations. One more key name added to that list tonight, Hope Hicks." ABC (Vega) added, "Less than 24 hours after...Hicks emerged from nearly nine hours of testifying on Capitol Hill...the President's closest aide and long-time confidante unexpectedly resigning." While "the official line from the White House" is Hicks "has been thinking about leaving the job for some time and wants to spend more time with her family...the news comes with Hicks under fire for that testimony."

CNN (2/28, Acosta, Diamond, Collins, Liptak) cited "one source" who said the President "found out on Wednesday that she had made a final decision to leave." The New York Post (2/28, Fredericks) notes Trump praised Hicks in a statement, "Hope is outstanding and has done great work for the last three years. She is as smart and thoughtful as they come, a truly great person. ... I will miss having her by my side but when she approached me about pursuing other opportunities, I totally understood. I am sure we will work together again in the future." White House lawyer Ty Cobb, meanwhile, said, "I can't imagine anyone here leaving a bigger hole in the White House." Politico (2/28, Samuelsohn) quotes Cobb as saying, "She couldn't have been a more supportive or talented ally to me."

The Washington Examiner (2/28, Nelson, Morrongiello) notes "Hicks recently became the focus of intense media coverage when her reported boyfriend, former White House staff secretary Rob Porter, was accused by both of his ex-wives of abuse." Sanders "told a group of reporters Wednesday that Hicks 'had been thinking about it before' the Porter controversy and said Trump 'is not unhappy with her in any way' after Hicks reportedly testified that she told white lies on Trump's behalf." Added Sanders, "Guys, quit trying to make this a scandal. It's not." The Hill (2/28, Fabian, Anapol) also points out that "Hicks's role came under scrutiny

earlier this month in the aftermath of the domestic abuse allegations against...Porter," as she "reportedly helped arrange public statements that were supportive of Porter."

The Washington Post (2/28, Rucker, Parker) reports that Hicks, "a former fashion model," first "entered Trump's universe as a public relations consultant to his daughter, Ivanka." Hicks "then went to work directly for Ivanka Trump's company, from where she was recruited to join...Trump's presidential campaign in its infancy." The Post adds that "by her own admission, Hicks knew little to nothing about politics," but "had a preternatural ability to manage Trump's whims and appetites, soothe his moods and shape his public image to his liking." The New York Times (2/28, Haberman) indicates, meanwhile, that "she maintained one of the lowest public profiles of anyone to ever hold the job, declining to sit for interviews or appear at the White House briefing room podium. That mystique added to the outsize attention she received."

The Washington Times (2/28, Miller) calls the news "startling," and Reuters (2/28, Holland) says her "departure will deprive Trump of an important confidant and adviser, someone who knows his likes and dislikes through more than three years of experience." The Wall Street Journal (2/28, Ballhaus), among other news outlets, also reports the story this morning, while Bloomberg News (2/28, Talev) notes Hicks said in a statement, "I wish the president and his administration the very best as he continues to lead our country."

***CNN Report: Hicks Resigned After Being Berated By Trump Over House Testimony.*** The Hill (2/28, Carter) reports "Trump reportedly berated...Hicks the day before her resignation, according to a new report." On CNN's Out Front (2/28), Erin Burnett, "reported Wednesday that Trump was angry with Hicks following her closed-door testimony to the House Intelligence Committee, in which she reportedly revealed she was sometimes required to tell 'white lies' as part of her work in the White House." Burnett "reported one of Trump's 'close allies' told CNN that Trump asked Hicks after her testimony 'how she could be so stupid.'" Added Burnett, "Apparently, that was the final straw for Hope Hicks."

John Roberts, however, said on Fox News' Special Report (2/28), "I am told Hope Hicks really wanted to leave and she had been thinking about it for some time. She really wanted to get the testimony before the House Intelligence committee out of the way before she made the decision to leave." Dan Balz, in a Washington Post (2/28) analysis, writes "Hicks's resignation came the day after she spent hours testifying on Capitol Hill about Russian interference in the 2016 election, though there was no indication that the two are related." Balz also says Hicks' announcement, "stunning as it was, hardly qualifies as out of the ordinary in an administration in which chaos is a constant."

Amy Walter of the Cook Political Report, also on Fox News' Special Report (2/28), said that Hicks' admission that she has told "white lies" is "a pretty damaging piece of information to get out there. Anything that is put

out on the record by your White House communications director has to come through that filter of somebody who has admitted to saying things that aren't true at different times. I do think that is a piece of this."

Sen. Ron Wyden said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (2/28), "This looks to me like more evidence of a White House in disarray. If we were going to name all the people who have either left or been fired just in the last couple months, we'd spend your whole show just going through it."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (2/28) if he believes Hicks' resignation is related to the Russia investigation, said, "Absolutely. Another day, another scandal, another resignation in the Trump White House. What else is new? What we've seen from the very beginning of this Administration is nothing but chaos, crisis and confusion. And of course her resignation is related to the fact that, just yesterday, she was before the intelligence committee and acknowledged telling lies on behalf of the Trump Administration. ... That in and of itself is disqualifying." Hicks "was one of Donald Trump's closest associates throughout the campaign and into the administration. The evidence continues to mount that there was an apparent conspiracy between some members of the Trump campaign and Russian spies to sell out our democracy and then engage in a possible cover-up. And Hope Hicks appears to be connected to all of those particular elements."

Asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (2/28) if the Russia investigation played a role in Hicks' resignation, Rep. Jerrold Nadler said, "I don't know. I have no facts on that. All I do know is that when the communications people for the President admits she lied to the American people, that's a terrible betrayal and it's a terrible thing that the representative of the President lies to the American people."

Rep. Joaquin Castro, asked on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (2/28) if Hicks' resignation is related to her congressional testimony, said, "Quite possibly, also with the reporting that the President may have berated her for being honest." Castro added that "there was a point when she was going through that series of questions that her face almost looked as if she was saying why did I get involved with these people, with Donald Trump. That was my sense when I was looking at her when she was struggling to answer these questions."

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

#### **New York Times.**

**"Donald Trump Gets A Lesson From That 'Very Bad Judge.'"** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/28) points out that Judge Gonzalo Curiel, of the Southern District of California, who President Trump called "very hostile," "a very bad judge" and a "hater of Donald Trump," when he was "presiding over a long-running class-action lawsuit against Trump University," on Tuesday "rejected a challenge by the State of California and several environmental groups to the administration's waiver of environmental laws that could have held up" construction of the border

wall. The Times argues that “there are in fact still people of principle in public service, and they’re doing important work every day to preserve our institutions and counteract this president’s worst impulses.” Curiel “has continued to do his job, carefully applying the law to the cases that come before him, no matter how obnoxious the litigants might be.” That, the Times adds, “requires a level of selflessness and devotion to democratic ideals that are alien to Mr. Trump.”

***“The European Union Must Stand Up To Polish Nationalism.”*** In an editorial, the New York Times (2/28) writes that “since coming to power in Poland in 2015, the nationalist Law and Justice party has enacted one outrageous measure after another, placing the nation’s courts under political control, trying to do the same with the news media, purging the civil service and, most recently, criminalizing any suggestion of Polish complicity in the Holocaust.” In response, the EU has “taken the unprecedented step of warning Warsaw that it could lose its voting rights in the organization if it carries on.” The Post says that while “it may not be easy for the European Union to follow through on that threat...it cannot back down.”

#### **Washington Post.**

***“The NSA Chief Spelled Out The Russian Threat. Is Trump Listening?”*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/28) says NSA Director Rogers’ testimony that “we’re probably not doing enough” with regard to Russian election interference is proof that the Administration “is derelict in its duty to protect the country from a foreign power’s hostile intrusions.” The Post argues that Rogers “should be given all the authorities he needs to combat Russian election intrusion efforts at their source.”

***“Putin Is Getting Away With Murder In Syria.”*** The Washington Post (2/28) editorializes that the Assad regime is “once again...conducting a brutal and criminal offensive against its own population,” and it “has been made possible, like so many before it, by Vladimir Putin. The Russian military is backing the Ghouta offensive, and Russian diplomats ensured that the Security Council resolution meant to stop it was held up for several days, then laced with loopholes providing a pretext for the slaughter to continue.” The Post argues that “in the absence of a firm US response to its latest outrages — and so far there is no sign of one — the Kremlin is unlikely to change course.”

***“The NRA Is Finally Paying The Price.”*** The Washington Post (2/28) writes in an editorial that “companies that once saw value in partnering with the National Rifle Association have decided to end their connections with the organization.” To the Post, “what the NRA ignores is that the Constitution it so often lauds gives citizens the right to decide with whom to do business. The NRA’s alienation of a large mass of consumers is its own responsibility.”

#### **Wall Street Journal.**

**"The White House Family Business."** A [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/28) editorial that Jared Kushner has become a target of those who want President Trump out of office and he and his wife, Ivanka Trump, must decide if they would better serve the President by relinquishing their formal roles at the White House.

**"Trump vs. Jeff Sessions."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/28) questions the wisdom of a CEO who berates his top subordinates in public the way President Trump has with Attorney General Sessions, and urges to President to order his Attorney General to appoint someone at DOJ whose job would be to make all documents pertinent to the FISA abuse probe available to the public.

**"Cleaning Up The Cleaned Up Tax Code."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/28) calls on lawmakers to correct a provision of the new tax law which allows farmers a larger deduction for selling to farm cooperatives as opposed to other operators. According to the Journal, some farmers could use the provision to reduce their taxable income to zero.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### ***New York Times:***

[Trump Calls Sessions's Handling of Surveillance Abuse Allegations 'Disgraceful'](#)

[Kushner's Business Got Loans After White House Meetings](#)

[Trump Stuns Lawmakers With Seeming Embrace of Gun Control](#)

[Scared but Resilient, Stoneman Douglas Students Return to Class](#)

[China's Censors Ban Winnie the Pooh and the Letter 'N' After Xi's Power Grab](#)

[Miami Superintendent Chosen to Lead New York City Schools](#)

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[Trump Urges Congress To Take Action On Guns](#)

[Hope Hicks, Trump's Communications Director, To Resign](#)

[If You Didn't Sell Stocks This Month, You've Probably Got FOMO](#)

[Bill Ackman Surrenders In His Five-Year War Against Herbalife](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[Mueller Digs Into Attempt To Force Sessions To Quit](#)

[Hicks To Step Down As Communications Director](#)

[Arpaio's Candidacy Will Test Trumpism](#)

[Some In GOP Say Oil, Beaches Don't Mix](#)

[Trump Sends Mixed Signals On Guns](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[Dick's Sporting Goods To Stop Selling Assault-Style Rifles](#)

[India Regains Title Of World's Fastest-Growing Major Economy](#)

[Jared Kushner's Circle Of Power Shrinks In White House](#)

Theresa May Attacks Brussels Brexit Draft As Threat To UK Integrity

***Washington Times:***

Mayor's Tip-off Escalates Trump-state Squabble

Trump Urges Senate To Pass Expanded Gun Check Bill

Solemn Goodbye To Graham

Universities Voice Support For Student Protests

Fair Play Questions Raised After Wrestler's Victories

Macron Tries Once More To Combat Radicalization

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Hope Hicks Resignation; Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Florida Shooting-Students; Classroom Gunshot; Russia Probe; Trump-AG Sessions; Severe Weather; SF Police Shootout; LA Serial Rapist; Amazon-Package Theft; Billy Graham Funeral; Oscar Award News.

**CBS:** Hope Hicks Resignation; Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Florida Shooting-Students; Classroom Gunshot; Military Base-Chemical Envelope; Syrian Civil War; Sanctuary Cities; NBA News; Distracted Driving Research; UK Royal News; Organ Donor.

**NBC:** Hope Hicks Resignation; Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Florida Shooting-Gun Retailers; Florida Shooting-Students; Severe Weather; Distracted Driving Research; Billy Graham Funeral; Social Merchants Warning; Car Explosion; UK Royal News; NBA News; Montana Mayor.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

Florida Shooting – 20 minutes, 40 seconds

Hope Hicks Resignation – 9 minutes, 45 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Florida Shooting-Gun Retailers; Hope Hicks Resignation; Florida Shooting-Students.

**CBS:** Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Florida Shooting-Gun Retailers; Hope Hicks Resignation; Billy Graham Funeral; Severe Weather.

**FOX:** Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Florida Shooting-Gun Retailers; Hope Hicks Resignation.

**NPR:** Hope Hicks Resignation; Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Florida Shooting-Gun Retailers; School Shooting Foiled; Wall Street News.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Hosts a meeting on school safety; has lunch with the Vice President and the Secretary of Defense; meets with members of the Senate.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with the President and the Secretary of Defense.

**US Senate:** 9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee considers NSA director nominee – Nominations hearing considers Lt. Gen. Paul Nakasone to be general and National Security Agency Director / Central Security Service Chief / U.S. Cyber Command Commander; Dr Brent Park to be National Nuclear Security Administration Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation; and Anne Marie White to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Fed Chair Powell presents Monetary Policy Report to Senate Banking Committee – Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs hearing on 'The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress', with testimony from Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC <http://www.federalreserve.gov> <https://twitter.com/federalreserve>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers John Ring to be a National Labor Relations Board member Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on federal managers' role in hiring – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining Federal Managers' Role in Hiring', with testimony from Office of Personnel Management Associate Director of Employee Services Mark Reinhold; Department of Homeland Security Chief Human Capital Officer Angela Bailey; and Department of Commerce Chief Human Capital Officer Kevin Mahoney Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Robert Pence to be U.S. Ambassador to Finland; Dr Judy Shelton to be European Bank for Reconstruction and Development U.S. Executive Director; and Trevor Traina to be U.S. Ambassador to Austria Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to Senate committee on administration's rebuilding infrastructure framework – Oversight hearing on 'The Administration's Framework for Rebuilding Infrastructure in America', with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao; and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on cybersecurity in infrastructure – Hearing on 'Cybersecurity in our Nation's Critical Energy Infrastructure', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability Bruce Walker; University of Washington Center for Information Assurance and Cybersecurity Executive Director Dr Barbara Endicott-Popovsky; Dragos CEO Robert Lee; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jim Matheson; and University of



Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Professor of Engineering Dr William Sanders  
 Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
[www.energy.senate.gov](http://www.energy.senate.gov)

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Joel Carson III to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; Colm Connolly and Maryellen Noreika to be U.S. District Judges for the District of Delaware; William Jung to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Ryan Holte to be U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge; Jonathan Mitchell to be Administrative Conference of the United States Chairman; Billy Williams to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon; Mark James to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Missouri; Daniel Mosteller to be U.S. Marshal for the District of South Dakota; and Jesse Seroyer Jr. to be U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:15 AM Senate Commerce, Science, Transportation committee hearing on Implementation of Positive Train Control – The hearing will focus on the implementation of the safety technology known as positive train control (PTC), amid concerns that some passenger railroads could fall short of meeting legal safety obligations, as well as actions or steps that could be taken to ensure compliance with the statutory deadline of December 31, 2018. Witnesses: Susan Fleming, Director of Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office; Barry J. DeWeese, Assistant Inspector General, Department of Transportation OIG; David L. Mayer, Chief Safety Officer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Richard Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Amtrak.  
<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=09177549-8FA7-454A-9A43-9CA8F61D57D2> Location: 253 Russell  
<http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

11:00 AM 'Puerto Rico: The Road to Recovery and Reconstruction' conference – 'Puerto Rico: The Road to Recovery and Reconstruction' Albert Shanker Institute, American Federation of Teachers, and Hispanic Federation conference, on rebuilding Puerto Rico's economy and education system after the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. Speakers include Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal, Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, San Juan, Puerto Rico Mayor Yulin Cruz, Ponce, Puerto Rico Mayor Maria Melendez, American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, Hispanic Foundation President Jose Calderon, and New York State Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, First St NE, Washington, DC  
[www.shankerinstitute.org](http://www.shankerinstitute.org)

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

Late Rev. Billy Graham continues lying in honor in the U.S. Capitol – Body of the late Rev. Billy Graham continues lying in honor in the Rotunda

of the U.S. Capitol, with members of the public and Capitol Hill community invited to 'pay their respects to the late reverend while he lies in rest' for two days, following his 21 Feb death at the age of 99 \* Dubbed 'America's Pastor', the evangelist is said to have preached to 215 million people in 53 countries, twice preaching to crowds of over one million. He provided counsel to 12 sitting U.S. presidents, from Harry Truman to Barack Obama, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1996 \* Graham is only the fourth person to lay in honor at the Capitol, following U.S. Capitol Police officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut, who were killed in the line of duty in 1998, and civil rights icon Rosa Parks Location: U.S. Capitol, Rotunda, Washington, DC [www.speaker.gov](http://www.speaker.gov) <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

**US House:** 9:00 AM POSTPONED: House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on 'Army Readiness Posture' – POSTPONED: Readiness Subcommittee hearing on 'Army Readiness Posture', with testimony from U.S. Army Deputy Chiefs of Staff (G-3/5/7) Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson and (G-4) Lt. Gen. Aundre Piggee; Army National Guard Director Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy; and Chief of Army Reserve Lt. Gen. Charles Luckey Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

9:30 AM POSTPONED: Rex Tillerson testifies to U.S. House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – POSTPONED: State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Department of State and Foreign Assistance', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2359, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseApprovsGOP>

No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives.

Late Rev. Billy Graham continues lying in honor in the U.S. Capitol – Body of the late Rev. Billy Graham continues lying in honor in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol, with members of the public and Capitol Hill community invited to 'pay their respects to the late reverend while he lies in rest' for two days, following his 21 Feb death at the age of 99 \* Dubbed 'America's Pastor', the evangelist is said to have preached to 215 million people in 53 countries, twice preaching to crowds of over one million. He provided counsel to 12 sitting U.S. presidents, from Harry Truman to Barack Obama, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1996 \* Graham is only the fourth person to lay in honor at the Capitol, following U.S. Capitol Police officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut, who were killed in the line of duty in 1998, and civil rights icon Rosa Parks Location: U.S. Capitol, Rotunda, Washington, DC [www.speaker.gov](http://www.speaker.gov) <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

**Other:** 8:30 AM U.S. surgeon general and CDC acting director at U.S. Chamber of Commerce event on the opioid crisis – 'Combating the Opioid Crisis: From Communities to the Capital' U.S. Chamber of Commerce forum, highlighting possible solutions being explored by the federal govt,

business community, public sector leaders, and local communities to fight the ongoing opioid epidemic, with speakers providing updates on the steps being taken in their communities to resolve the crisis. Participants include U.S. Surgeon General Dr Jerome Adams, CDC Acting Director Dr Anne Schuchat, Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen, Republican Rep. Greg Walden, Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic founders James and Mary Winnefeld, EverFi co-founder and President of Global Partnerships Jon Champan, Aetna Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Dr Harold Paz Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC [www.uschamber.com](http://www.uschamber.com) <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

8:30 AM Dem Sen. Jeanne Shaheen speaks at CFR on 'Women's Contributions to Peace and Security' – Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen speaks on 'Women's Contributions to Peace and Security' at the Council on Foreign Relations, discussing the implementation of the 'Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017', which requires the U.S. to improve women's participation in peace and security processes, and how women's contributions can improve the effectiveness of U.S. security operations around the world Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F St NW, Washington, DC [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org) [https://twitter.com/CFR\\_org](https://twitter.com/CFR_org)

9:00 AM National Cherry Blossom Festival kick-off press conference – 2018 National Cherry Blossom Festival kick-off press conference to announce plans for the festival and the predicted peak blooming period. Speakers include Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Embassy of Japan Minister for Communications and Cultural affairs Takehiro Shimada and National Mall and Memorial Parks/National Park Service Acting Superintendent Karen Cucurullo \* Festival begins 20 Mar Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org) <https://twitter.com/CherryBlossFest>

9:00 AM CFPB Acting Director Mulvaney and SBA Administrator McMahon speak at U.S. Chamber of Commerce – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness hosts event to 'spark discussion about the landscape for small business lending'. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Acting Director Mick Mulvaney speaks about 'the role the Bureau will play in supporting small businesses' access to credit', and Small Business Administration Administrator Linda McMahon delivers remarks sharing the small business perspective on lending Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC [www.uschamber.com](http://www.uschamber.com) <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

1:30 PM GOP Rep. Mac Thornberry discusses U.S. nuclear policy and strategy at CSIS – 'Assessing the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review' Center for Strategic and International Studies Project on Nuclear Issues conference, on U.S. nuclear policy and strategy. Keynote speakers are Under Secretary of Defense for Policy John Rood, and Republican Rep. Mac Thornberry Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org>

<https://twitter.com/CSIS>

2:00 PM DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee meeting – Democratic National Committee Rules and Bylaws Committee meeting, with agenda including a review of the Unity Reform Commission report and other party business Location: W Hotel Washington DC, 515 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.democrats.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheDemocrats>

2:00 PM Potomac Institute Ambassador's Forum on 'Balkan Security Challenges' – Potomac Institute for Policy Studies International Center for Terrorism Studies Ambassador's Forum on 'Balkan Security Challenges: Past Lessons and Future Outlook', with former U.S. Marine Corps Commandant Gen. (Ret.) Alfred Gray, Albania Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Floreta Faber, Kosovo Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Vlora Citaku, Slovenia Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Stanislav Vidovic, Montenegro Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Nebojsa Kaluderovic, State Department Office of European Security Political, and Military Affairs' Richard Prosen, and International Law Institute Chairman Don Wallace Location: Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, 901 N Stuart St, Arlington, VA [www.potomacinstitute.org](http://www.potomacinstitute.org) <https://twitter.com/PotomacInst>

2:00 PM Saudi princess in conversation at Middle East Policy Council event – Middle East Policy Council hosts 'The Changing Role of Women and Youth in Saudi Arabia' conversation with Saudi Arabian Sports Authority Vice-President for Development and Planning Princess Reema bint Bandar Al Saud Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, CVC-202, Washington, DC <http://www.mepc.org> <https://twitter.com/MidEastPolicy>

6:00 PM Mexico Ambassador to the U.S. speaks at National Immigration Forum reception – National Immigration Forum Spring Reception, including discussion on cultural, economic, and security anxieties 'driving the migration debate' in the U.S. and across the globe. Speakers include Mexico Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Geronimo Gutierrez, More in Common co-founder Tim Dixon, and National Immigration Forum Executive Director Ali Noorani Location: Greenberg Traurig, 2101 L St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.immigrationforum.org/> <https://twitter.com/NatImmForum>

Bicameral, bipartisan lawmakers speak at New Jersey Chamber Congressional Dinner – New Jersey Chamber of Commerce 81st Annual Walk to Washington and Congressional Dinner, with remarks from Democratic Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, Republican Rep. Chris Smith, and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. The dinner is the highlight of the Walk to Washington, the Chamber's annual train trek to Washington, DC, where chamber members board a chartered Amtrak train and walk up and down the aisles discussing issues and generating business contacts \* Event continues tomorrow with reporters roundtable breakfast, followed by the charter train's return trip to New Jersey Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC [www.njchamber.com](http://www.njchamber.com) <https://twitter.com/njchamber> #chambertrain

White House Cabinet-Level Opioid Summit – White House Cabinet-

Level Opioid Summit, with Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan among participants Location: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/whitehouse>

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

**Stephen Colbert:** "Yesterday, we found out that Jared's security clearance was being downgraded and that he lost access to top-secret intelligence. I don't know. He's done a very good job of keeping his intelligence secret."

**James Corden:** "Yesterday, White House Communications Director Hope Hicks spoke in front of a congressional committee giving testimony about the Russia investigation, during which she said that her work for President Trump sometimes requires her to tell white lies. Now, the President said that, like most things, he's fine with it as long as they're white."

**James Corden:** "President Trump's already released a statement saying Hope Hicks is leaving because she wanted to pursue other opportunities. And maybe that's why she left. Clearly, the President can lie just fine without her."

**James Corden:** "Even more bad news for President Trump: The faculty at Lehigh University has voted to rescind the honorary degree the school gave Trump in 1988. That is a pretty big hit for the President's LinkedIn profile. This kind of blow-back is happening all across the White House. There is even talk that Eric Trump could lose his GED."

**Trevor Noah:** "Yesterday, news came out that Jared Kushner lost his top-secret security clearance, possibly because he's doing business with foreign countries that were trying to manipulate him. Then this morning, Trump got into a Twitter fight with his attorney general. Then just this afternoon, one of his closest and longest-standing advisers, Communications Director Hope Hicks, suddenly announced her resignation. Yeah, and this last piece of news was really shocking: Trump had a communications director?"

**Trevor Noah:** "The New York Times reported HUD spent \$31,000 on a new dining set for Secretary Ben Carson's office as cuts were being planned for programs to the homeless and elderly and poor. Ben Carson says he didn't know the table was purchased, but does not intend to return it. You know,

there are times when I doubt Ben Carson's blackness, but then something like this happens, and I'm like, 'Yeah, that's my dude.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Speaking of Trump, his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, just lost his security clearance at the White House. They say it's because of shady business dealings, financial problems, and lack of foreign policy experience. When he heard that, Trump said, 'Okay, now you can call me dad.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "White House Communications Director Hope Hicks announced today that she is resigning from her position. Which is weird, because I thought hope left the White House a year ago. All the hopes are leaving."

**Seth Meyers:** "In a new interview, Oprah said that she won't run for President until she gets a sign from God. Said God, 'Was this one not clear enough?'"

**Seth Meyers:** "According to reports, the Nobel Institute is investigating a possibly fake nomination of President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize. Let me save you some time. It's fake."

**Seth Meyers:** "Donald Trump Jr. reported for jury duty today here in New York. And out of habit, he opened with 'not guilty.'"

**Conan O'Brien:** "As of last Friday, Jared Kushner no longer has top security clearance. No top-secret security clearance. So now, if Kushner wants access to classified information, he'll have to read President Trump's tweets like everybody else."

**Jordan Klepper:** "Now after all this media BS, chief of staff John Kelly has downgraded Jared's top-secret clearance to regular secret clearance. That means he only gets the whack second-tier secrets, like, instead of knowing what went down at Area 51 in Nevada, he only gets to know what happened at Area 4 in Tampa."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the

respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-02T06:36:34-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 2, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-02T06:36:38-05:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 2, 2018 at 5:59:42 AM EST  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 2, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018 6:00 AM EST**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Zinke Cancels Chaco Canyon Lease Sale.
- New York Times: Oil Was Central In Decision To Shrink Bears Ears Monument, Emails Show.
- Law360: Nat'l Monument Cut Benefited Utah Lawmaker, Watchdog Told.
- KGVO-FM Missoula (MT): Ryan Zinke Pushes For Reorganization Of 'Marshmallow' Management.
- KCHH-FM Worden (MT): Secretary Zinke's Surprise Phone Call To "Montana Talks".
- Huffington Post: One Year In, Ryan Zinke's Conservation Legacy Would Make His Hero Scowl.
- The Hill: Trump Administration Hired More Than 75 Lawyers With Ties To Agencies They Oversee.
- Mother Jones: Lawmakers Want To Know Why The Trump Administration Demanded Sensitive Oil Data.
- Great Falls (MT) Tribune: Cold, Snow Has Cattle Freezing, Smothering On Blackfeet Reservation.
- Nevada Appeal: \$600,000 In Parks Grants Available For Local Governments.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- Umatilla Tribes Enter Cooperative Agreement For Cobell Land Program.
- Wilton Rancheria Wins Court Decision In Favor Of Long-Awaited Casino.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Wyoming Fights Methane Rule, Again.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: BLM Offers 40 Parcels In Oil, Gas Lease Sale.



- Victorville (CA) Daily Press: DRECP Scoping Meeting In Hesperia Draws Diverse Crowd; BLM Seeks Comments.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: 4 Counties Want Royalty Payments From Anvil Points.
- Moab (UT) Times-Independent: After Oil Well Venting Strong Odor Causes Alarm Among Nearby Residents.

#### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Enviro Plead With Ga. Governor To 'Stand Up For Our Coast'.
- US Officials To Talk Offshore Drilling With Long Islanders.
- Rhode Island Protesters Decry Federal Offshore Drilling Plan.
- SC Republicans Split With Gov. McMaster On Offshore Drilling.
- Cape Cod Drilling Protesters Dress To Express.
- AG Fighting Plan To Open Mass. Coast To Offshore Oil Drilling.

#### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- Tester Calls Out Trump On Water Project Funding.

#### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

- A New Economic And Ecological Concept For Offshore Decommissioning.

#### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Associated Press: Court: Decision Ending Sea Otter Relocation Program Legal.
- Oregonian: Lawsuit Seeks Stronger Protections For 'Threatened' Oregon Bird Species.
- Gainesville (FL) Sun: Lawsuit Likely Over 'Tough Little' Cedar Key Mole Skink.

#### **National Park Service**

- Washington Post: Peak Bloom For D.C.'s Famed Cherry Trees Will Begin March 17, Park Service Says.
- The Hill: 'March For Our Lives' Won't Take Place On National Mall Due To Scheduling Conflict.
- Associated Press: Park Service Unveils Concepts For Sperry Chalet Restoration.
- Oswegonian: Fort Ontario Considered For National Park Status Due To Bill By Congressman Katko.
- KULR-TV Billings (MT): Yellowstone National Park Celebrates Turning 146.
- Point Reyes (CA) Light: Comments Out Early On Park GMPA.
- Maui (HI) Now: Comment Period Regarding Proposed Fee Increase Deadline, March 2.

#### **US Geological Survey**

- E&E Publishing: Military Site Faces 'Shocking' Risk Of Being Swamped.
- Associated Press: Wanted: 'Citizen Scientists' To Help Count Joshua Trees.
- Bloomberg News: Nor'easter Set To Hit U.S. East Coast With Floods, High Winds.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- President Trump's Public Lands Agenda Is Extremely Unpopular.
- Our View: Offshore Drilling Not Worth The Risk.
- Sentence Sends A Message.
- Trump's Tumultuous Cabinet, Ranked.

- Additional Reading.

### **Top National News**

- Bloomberg News: GOP Furious, Investors "Shaken" As Trump Announces Steel, Aluminum Tariffs.
- New York Times: NRA Lobbyist Suggests Trump Has Backed Off Support For Gun Control.
- Breitbart: Trump Touts Manufacturing Growth, 49-Year Low In Jobless Claims.
- Washington Examiner: EPA Begins Dismantling Obama Methane Rules.
- Associated Press: EPA Moves To Roll Back Further Clean Air, Water Rules.
- Bloomberg News: Corporate America Seen Taking On Issues The Government Won't.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Intrigue In The House Of Trump."
  - "Jared Kushner Flames Out."
  - "Ivanka Trump: Brand Building At The White House."
  - "No Matter The Verdict, Corruption Trial Taints Cuomo."
- Washington Post.
  - "Trump's Tariffs Will Hurt All Americans."
  - "There's Something States Can Do About Gun Violence: 'Red-Flag' Laws."
  - "Children Are Killed For Insurance Money. Maryland Is Doing Something About It."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Trump's Tariff Folly."
  - "A Shady Joint-Employer Ambush."
  - "South Africa's Economic Peril."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Zinke Cancels Chaco Canyon Lease Sale.**

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/1, Coleman) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "canceled an oil and gas lease sale near Chaco Canyon in northern New Mexico until the agency can further review the impact on cultural artifacts in the area." Zinke said in an exclusive interview Thursday afternoon that "there have been some questions raised" so the Bureau of Land Management will hold off on the sale. The sale had been set for March 8.

**Oil Was Central In Decision To Shrink Bears Ears Monument, Emails Show.**

The [New York Times](#) (3/2, Lipton, Friedman) reports that "even before President Trump officially opened his high-profile review last spring of federal lands protected as National Monuments, the Department of Interior was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at a protected Utah site, internal agency documents show." The debate began "as early as March 2017, when an aide to Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, asked a senior Interior Department official to consider reduced boundaries for Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah to remove land that contained oil and natural gas deposits that had been set aside to help fund area public schools." A map that Hatch's office provided, "which was transmitted about a month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke publicly initiated his review of national monuments, was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December, shrinking Bears Ears by 85 percent."

**Nat'l Monument Cut Benefited Utah Lawmaker, Watchdog Told.**

[Law360](#) (3/1, Rodriguez) reports that "a conservation group said Thursday it is asking the U.S. Department of the Interior's inspector general to conduct a formal investigation into the modified boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, claiming a Utah state legislator is personally profiting from the changes." Western Values Project said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "recommended reducing the size of the monument 'in line with what state and local leaders requested,' including Kane County leaders, one of which is state Rep. Mike Noel."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/1, Grandoni) reports that "Noel owns a 40-acre parcel of land that was contained entirely within the former boundaries of Grand Staircase-Escalante, according to documents published by the Western Values Project." The Trump Administration "redrew the boundaries in such a way as to connect that land with acreage outside the national monument, in effect allowing for better potential access to it." In response, Noel "told The Washington Post he did not ask Interior to shrink the monument so that the 40-acre piece of land was no longer inside of it."

**Ryan Zinke Pushes For Reorganization Of 'Marshmallow' Management.**

[KGVO-FM](#) Missoula, MT (3/1, King) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "says he is working on restructuring the Department of the Interior and its multiple bureaucracies." According to Zinke, "the complex management system currently in use, leads to confusion and ineffective spending of taxpayer dollars." He "says he hopes the reorganization will lead to better communication with local communities and give the federal government less of a 'heavy hand.'"

### **Secretary Zinke's Surprise Phone Call To "Montana Talks".**

KCHH-FM Worden, MT (3/1, Flint) reports that Thursday's "Montana Talks" with Aaron Flint received "a surprise phone call" from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Zinke "talked about his one year anniversary as secretary, moving more jobs and key leadership positions in federal land management agencies out to the West, and energy development and access to federal lands." He also commented on President Trump's "latest remarks in the gun control debate."

### **One Year In, Ryan Zinke's Conservation Legacy Would Make His Hero Scowl.**

The Huffington Post (3/1, D'Angelo) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "speaks often of his love for America's conservationist president, Theodore Roosevelt." However, Theodore Roosevelt IV, the president's great-grandson, "said he's 'reluctant to put words in a dead man's mouth,' but has no doubt his ancestor would condemn what Zinke is doing." According to Roosevelt, "many in the Roosevelt family...are angry that Zinke keeps invoking their ancestor to misrepresent his own actions." Roosevelt said, "His concept of how you protect public lands and the values that they represent are certainly very different than the old lion's. And when he says he's going to live up to the legacy of [Teddy], he's not doing it."

### **Trump Administration Hired More Than 75 Lawyers With Ties To Agencies They Oversee.**

The Hill (3/1, Wilson) reports that "more than 75 Trump administration lawyers either represented clients in the industries they regulate or had clients with business before the government, according to a report released Thursday by the liberal watchdog group Public Citizen." Notably, Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, "a former lawyer and lobbyist at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, once represented California's Westlands Water District, the largest water district in the country that was involved in improper payments from the Bureau of Reclamation, according to an inspector general report." Also, Daniel Jorjani, the Interior Department's principal deputy solicitor, "came from groups tied to the billionaire conservative donors Charles and David Koch, who are the majority owners of Koch Industries."

### **Lawmakers Want To Know Why The Trump Administration Demanded Sensitive Oil Data.**

Mother Jones (3/1, Federman) reports that "lawmakers are demanding answers from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about why political appointees in his department asked for early access to data from a study of oil and gas deposits on Alaska's North Slope—a request that led to the resignation of a top scientist at the US Geological Survey." In a letter to Zinke Tuesday, Reps. Raul Grijalva and Donald McEachin "said the events, if true, were

'the latest in a troubling series of attacks on scientific integrity and ethical lapses' at the department." The letter "calls on Zinke to provide details about why Interior officials wanted to see the unpublished data, how they intended to use it, and if they ever actually reviewed it before the final report was made public."

### **Cold, Snow Has Cattle Freezing, Smothering On Blackfeet Reservation.**

The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (3/1, Puckett) reports that "significant cattle losses are expected on the Blackfeet Reservation as a result of a brutal winter that brought almost continual heavy snow, bitter temperatures and blowing wind in the month of February alone, officials said Thursday." Sen. Jon Tester "said Thursday he's calling on federal officials to be ready to provide disaster relief as large amounts of snow continue to accumulate across the state, and personally discussed local needs with FEMA Administrator Brock Long." Tester "said he's also requesting immediate assistance from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue highlighting the added strain that snowfall puts on agriculture operations and work needed to prevent flooding from future snowmelt."

### **\$600,000 In Parks Grants Available For Local Governments.**

Nevada Appeal (3/1) reports that the Interior Department has "made available \$600,000 to park and recreation developments through the Land and Water Conservation Fund program."

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **Umatilla Tribes Enter Cooperative Agreement For Cobell Land Program.**

The Nation Sun News (3/1) reports that "the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have signed a second cooperative agreement as part of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." According to the article, "as part of the new agreement, outreach meetings are being held in March to inform landowners about the program." Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda said, "By partnering with the Umatilla Confederated Tribes for a second round of implementation at their location, the department will build off of our successful initial implementation and maximize the use of the funds from the Cobell settlement."

Additional coverage was provided by the East Oregonian (3/1, McDowell).

### **Wilton Rancheria Wins Court Decision In Favor Of Long-Awaited Casino.**

The Nation Sun News (3/1) reports that "a federal judge has sided with the

Wilton Rancheria, rejecting a challenge to the tribe's long-awaited casino project in northern California." The Bureau of Indian Affairs "approved the tribe's land-into-trust application on January 19, 2017, the last full day of the Obama administration." However, opponents claimed "the official who made the decision wasn't authorized to do so." Judge Trevor McFadden rejected those arguments.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/1, Garrison) reports that McFadden held "that a federal law regarding agency vacancies gave Larry Roberts, the principal deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the authority to issue the decision." The [Elk Grove \(CA\) Citizen](#) (3/1, Armstrong) reports that Wilton Rancheria's chairman, Raymond Hitchcock said, "We are pleased that the court rejected this desperate attempt by special interests and their high-priced law firms to use the legal system to try to stifle competition."

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (3/1, Powell).

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Wyoming Fights Methane Rule, Again.**

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/1, Richards) reports that "Wyoming is trying to bring the methane rule fight back to federal court in the Cowboy State with the aim of scrapping the regulations until the Interior Department gives the country new ones." Wyoming and "other industry states say compliance is unfair and the rule should be tabled until the Interior is finished with its revision process." The state counsel argued in court documents filed Wednesday, "Neither the regulated community nor the BLM is capable of switching on compliance with the Waste Prevention Rule overnight."

### **BLM Offers 40 Parcels In Oil, Gas Lease Sale.**

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (2/28) reports that the Bureau of Land Management will "offer 40 parcels in Elko, Eureka and Nye counties totaling approximately 69,691 acres at its March quarterly oil and gas lease sale." The article notes that the auction "does not include the 54,000 acres around the Ruby Mountains being analyzed by the U.S. Forest Service after an expression of interest was filed in April 2017." According to the article, "the environmental analysis and draft decision notice for those parcels is expected to be released by mid-March."

### **DRECP Scoping Meeting In Hesperia Draws Diverse Crowd; BLM Seeks Comments.**

The [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (3/1) reports that the Bureau of Land Management's on Wednesday held its "third scoping meeting since the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECEP) reopened for amendments in early February." The meeting drew was attended by "well over 100 people, including High Desert residents, members of conservation groups and county officials, turned out Wednesday evening at the

Courtyard Marriott Hotel." Jerome "Jerry" Perez, state director of the Bureau of Land Management, said, "This is an important topic for many in this room. We're here to gather information ... what you think about the DRECP. It's not intended to be a public hearing. Help us figure out what will be the breadth and scope of what we may need to do in the future."

#### **4 Counties Want Royalty Payments From Anvil Points.**

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (3/2, Ashby) reports that "if the federal government ever releases royalty payments to the state from the closed Anvil Points oil shale research facility, the Legislature's Joint Budget Committee knows how it should be distributed." Under a bill that will be debated Monday, that federal mineral lease money "would go to four northwest Colorado counties." Under HB1249, "Garfield and Rio Blanco counties would receive 40 percent each while Mesa and Moffat counties would see 10 percent each."

#### **After Oil Well Venting Strong Odor Causes Alarm Among Nearby Residents.**

The Moab (UT) Times-Independent (3/1, Egelhoff) reports that local residents were alarmed by a strong odor near a well site in Utah. Workers at the well – Three Mile 24-21D, operated by Wesco Operating Co. on Bureau of Land Management property – said the odor was non-toxic. BLM Public Affairs Specialist Lisa Bryant said, "The BLM immediately followed up with the company after receiving reports from nearby private landowners of hydrogen sulfide odors. Following on-site inspections, the BLM determined the company had followed safety precautions for the venting operations. Monitoring indicated that hydrogen sulfide levels did not rise to concentrations that triggered health or environmental concerns."

#### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

#### **Enviros Plead With Ga. Governor To 'Stand Up For Our Coast'.**

E&E Publishing (3/1, Swartz) reports both "industry supporters and environmental advocates" appeared Wednesday for an informational session on the Interior Department's draft five-year plan for offshore energy development. Opponents to drilling have criticized Governor Nathan Deal (R) for failing to speak out against drilling off Georgia's coast. However, Georgia Petroleum Council Executive Director Hunter Hopkins argued, "It's been 30-plus, almost 40, years since anybody has surveyed off of the coast and looked for oil, natural gas deposits," likening the old technology to X-rays. But with advancements in technology, he said, new surveys could look more like MRIs. According to E&E, Hopkins "and other supporters talked up jobs, economic development and energy independence that would come with offshore drilling. Being able to drill successfully could turn Georgia into a fuel-production state, with the royalties flowing back into the state budget."

WABE-FM Atlanta (3/1, Samuel) reports online that Deal "has been

on the fence" about drilling off Georgia's coast, "but he hasn't said 'no.'" Hopkins said, "We were just pleased with that position, that he did not technically shut the door." According to WABE, "Companies should at least be allowed to look for oil and gas off Georgia's coast, Hopkins said, to find out if there's anything worth drilling for. If there is, he said, it could bring more jobs to Georgia, though any actual drilling could still be years off."

***Offshore Drilling Opponents Rally At Georgia Capitol.*** The Bluffton (SC) Today (3/1, Landers) reports that "opponents of offshore drilling staged a rally at the Georgia Capitol on Wednesday ahead of an afternoon 'listening session' on the issue that federal regulators scheduled in Atlanta." The event was" organized by the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast, One Hundred Miles, Environment Georgia, the Savannah and Ogeechee riverkeepers and the Georgia chapters of the Sierra Club and Surfrider Foundation."

### **US Officials To Talk Offshore Drilling With Long Islanders.**

The AP (3/2) reports Interior Department officials are heading to Long Island to discuss opening up new areas to offshore drilling with local residents. Friday's session will be hosted by Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY), who "opposes the Trump Administration's proposal to authorize new areas for offshore drilling for oil and natural gas."

### **Rhode Island Protesters Decry Federal Offshore Drilling Plan.**

The AP (3/1, McDermott) reports protesters opposed to the proposed expansion of offshore drilling in the US "crashed a hearing on the issue in Rhode Island on Wednesday, saying the plan is bad for the environment." Approximately 100 protesters gathered at the Statehouse before marching to the BOEM meeting. WPRI-TV Providence, RI (2/28, Machado) reports environmental activists on Wednesday "swarmed a meeting of the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, asking the federal employees there not to allow companies to drill for oil and gas off of Rhode Island's coastline." Protesters marched from the State House to the site of the BOEM meeting chanting "no drill, no spill."

The AP (2/28) reports opponents of the Trump administration's proposed offshore drilling plan "are expected to gather in Providence as federal ocean regulators hold a public meeting" on Wednesday. Environmental group Save the Bay is planning to host a rally at the Statehouse that will feature remarks from Gov. Gina Raimondo (D) beforehand. WPRI-TV Providence, RI (2/28, Nunes) reports Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo (D) believes "drilling would threaten the state's waters, which are a vital part of the economy and ecosystem." Raimondo plans to "partner with state environmental leaders" during "an event Wednesday protesting Republican President Donald Trump's new offshore drilling plan."

### **SC Republicans Split With Gov. McMaster On Offshore Drilling.**



Columbia (SC) State (2/28, Marchant) reports a new poll by Winthrop University shows "51 percent of South Carolinians surveyed opposed offshore drilling," while 41 percent were in favor of it. Self-identified Democrats were "71 percent opposed and 24 percent favoring," while self-identified Republicans were "63 percent favoring and 30 percent opposed." The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (2/28, Byrd) reports the poll results "could spell trouble for Republican Gov. Henry McMaster, who is now at odds with his base on this issue at a time when he's trying to fend off four other GOP challengers in the 2018 governor's race."

### **Cape Cod Drilling Protesters Dress To Express.**

The Cape Cod (MA) Times (2/27, Fraser) reports the BOEM "didn't allow oral testimony at its public meeting Tuesday" in Boston on the proposed offshore drilling plan, but that "didn't stop people from making their voices heard." On the floor above the official hearing, "a costumed, sign-bearing crowd jammed into a conference room...to listen to representatives from a panoply of environmental organizations, more than 20 nonprofit organizations, state elected officials, and others, speak in opposition to exploration and drilling anywhere off the New England coastline." Speakers expressed concerns on a range of topics, including "the possible effects of an oil spill on fisheries, marine life and...valuable coastline and tourist economy."

### **AG Fighting Plan To Open Mass. Coast To Offshore Oil Drilling.**

WFXT-TV Boston (2/28) reports Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey joined a rally in Boston on Tuesday opposing a federal plan to open Massachusetts' coasts to offshore oil drilling. The rally was held "ahead of a meeting with the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)." Healey said, "This reckless and arbitrary plan threatens to destroy our multi-billion-dollar fishing and tourism industries and our vibrant marine and coastal ecosystems."

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Tester Calls Out Trump On Water Project Funding.**

The Havre (MT) Daily News (3/1, Ross) reports that President Trump's proposed budget "represents a step backward for Rocky Boy's/North Central Montana Regional Water System, Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., said in a letter to Trump Tuesday, the same day he and Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., announced a hearing for a bill that could provide funding for such projects." Cuts to the Bureau of Reclamation in the president's proposal, Tester said, "would reduce funding for the project by \$8.2 million, and the Fort Peck Reservation/Dry Prairie Water System by \$10.5 million." Tester said "These drastic cuts are in direct contradiction to the bipartisan support seen throughout Congress for investing in these types of water projects that provide clean water to rural communities. I respectfully urge your Administration to support the use of funds that accrue to the Reclamation

Fund for the purpose of supporting western water development, and rural water infrastructure projects and authorized Indian water rights settlements are well within that scope," he continued.

### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

---

#### **A New Economic And Ecological Concept For Offshore Decommissioning.**

E&P Magazine (3/1, Salardi, Allen) reports Xodus Group and Subcon International have formed a new partnership that will deploy "Integrated Rigs to Reef (IR2R) decommissioning solutions" that will solve "the issue of the high cost of oil and gas asset decommissioning as well as...the reduction in fish habitats." The IR2R approach overcomes the shortcomings of the traditional R2R technique "by augmenting the obsolete oil and gas structures with purpose-built reef modules" that "enhance the new habitat and convert it into a more productive purpose-built artificial reef." Such a solution optimizes "the ecological benefit" and turns the structure into "a new asset whose ownership and liability can be transferred to the relevant government agency in charge of habitat restoration or to another stakeholder."

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

#### **Court: Decision Ending Sea Otter Relocation Program Legal.**

The AP (3/1) reports that "a federal appeals court has upheld a decision by federal wildlife officials to end a program to relocate endangered sea otters off the California coast." The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday "rejected lawsuits by fishing industry groups that argued Congress required the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue the program indefinitely." Law360 (3/1, Greene) reports that court found "that the fishermen's contention that the program couldn't stop made 'no sense whatsoever.'"

Additional coverage was provided by KSBW-TV Monterey, CA (3/1, Larson).

#### **Lawsuit Seeks Stronger Protections For 'Threatened' Oregon Bird Species.**

The Oregonian (3/1, Williams) reports that "an environmental advocacy group is suing the federal government to strengthen protections for a bird species that only lives in the Pacific Northwest, which they say could soon go extinct." The Center for Biological Diversity "filed the complaint Wednesday seeking to change the status of the streaked horned lark from 'threatened' to 'endangered' under the Endangered Species Act."

#### **Lawsuit Likely Over 'Tough Little' Cedar Key Mole Skink.**

The Gainesville (FL) Sun (3/1, Swirko) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity is expected to file a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the Cedar Key mole skink. At issue is the FWS' "failure

to act on a petition to list the skink as threatened or endangered, said Elise Bennett, an attorney for the center." The center has "filed a required notice of intent to sue the federal agency, which will have 60 days to respond."

### **National Park Service**

---

#### **Peak Bloom For D.C.'s Famed Cherry Trees Will Begin March 17, Park Service Says.**

The [Washington Post](#) (2/28, Chiu) reports that the National Park Service announced Thursday that Washington's cherry blossoms are "expected to reach peak bloom between March 17 and March 20." According to Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the National Park Service, "if weather conditions are optimal – mild temperatures and no high winds or heavy rains – the blossoms could stay on trees for about a week to 10 days." This year's National Cherry Blossom Festival will run from March 20 to April 15.

Also reporting are [USA Today](#) (3/1, Trejos), [USA Today](#) (3/1), the [Washington Patch](#) (3/1, Taylor), and [WUSA-TV Washington](#) (3/1).

#### **'March For Our Lives' Won't Take Place On National Mall Due To Scheduling Conflict.**

In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (3/1, Carter) reports that "a pro-gun control march planned for later this month in Washington, D.C., won't take place on the National Mall due to a scheduling conflict." The group organizing the "March for Our Lives" event "submitted a permit request to the National Park Service to hold the event on the Mall on March 24." NPS spokesman Mike Litterst said "the agency had already received a permit application for some of the same areas on the day requested by the march organizers."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (3/1, Moyer), the [Washington Examiner](#) (3/1, Mayfield), [NPR](#) (3/1, Domonoske), and [WRC-TV Washington](#) (3/1, Swalec).

#### **Park Service Unveils Concepts For Sperry Chalet Restoration.**

The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that the National Park Service on Wednesday "released four concepts for the restoration of Glacier National Park's Sperry Chalet dormitory." The concepts "range from stabilizing the walls but not rebuilding the structure – instead, setting up temporary wall tents for visitors – to reconstructing the dorm to as 'close to as it was' with some critical building code updates." The comment period for the project ends April 2.

Also reporting are the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (3/1, Devlin), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (3/1, Reilly), and [Montana Public Radio](#) (3/1, Ouellet).

#### **Fort Ontario Considered For National Park Status Due To Bill By Congressman Katko.**

The Oswegonian (3/2, Flavell) reports that Fort Ontario is "currently in the process of becoming a national park." Rep. John Katko "wrote a bipartisan bill that, if passed, would direct the National Park Service to study Fort Ontario and evaluate the park's national significance to determine whether it should change from being recognized as a state park to a national park." The House "approved the bipartisan bill with a unanimous voice vote, and the bill will now advance to the Senate."

### **Yellowstone National Park Celebrates Turning 146.**

KULR-TV Billings, MT (3/1, Crossley) reports that Yellowstone National Park celebrated its 146th birthday on Thursday. Also reporting are Yellowstone Insider (3/1, Reichard) and WWTV-TV Cadillac (MI) Cadillac, MI (3/1, Shea).

### **Comments Out Early On Park GMPA.**

The Point Reyes (CA) Light (3/1, Guth) reports that the National Park Service has "received nearly 3,000 public comments on its initial concepts for an amendment to its general management plan that will determine the future of ranch and elk management in the Point Reyes National Seashore and the northern reaches of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area." The NPS published the comments "prematurely in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from a local group that believes the agency is leading ranchers to 'death by a thousand cuts.'" Seashore spokeswoman Melanie Gunn "said that as a result of complying with the FOIA request, the park released the raw comments without an accompanying analysis to identify basic trends."

### **Comment Period Regarding Proposed Fee Increase Deadline, March 2.**

The Maui (HI) Now (3/1) reports that "the public comment period regarding a proposed fee increase to the tri-park annual pass will close" on Friday. The proposal would "raise the tri-park annual pass from \$30 to \$50, beginning on May 1, 2018, and conforms to the nationwide pricing structure for other national parks with similar visitation." Superintendent Natalie Gates said, "These parks are here for the American people. Public input – for or against this proposed fee increase– is really important for us."

### **US Geological Survey**

---

#### **Military Site Faces 'Shocking' Risk Of Being Swamped.**

E&E Publishing (3/1, Waldman) reports that "a multibillion-dollar military installation in the Pacific that has provided key testing for the U.S. defense against a possible North Korean nuclear strike could become uninhabitable in less than two decades due to climate change." The Army's Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site "on the low-lying Kwajalein Atoll

in the Marshall Islands is expected to be submerged by seawater at least once a year, according to a new study ordered by the Department of Defense." U.S. Geological Survey research geologist Curt Storlazzi, the study's lead author, said, "We were very surprised. Most of the historical publications ... have generally been end-of-century, 2100, 2150, things like that. We're talking about in people's lifetimes; we're talking about in expected life spans of construction, and so that was shocking."

### **Wanted: 'Citizen Scientists' To Help Count Joshua Trees.**

The AP (3/2, Brea) reports that "using satellite and aerial imagery already widely available on the internet," researchers "hope to compile landscape-scale data on the presence and absence of Joshua trees across their native range in California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah." According to the article, "the resulting distribution map could be used to identify populations worthy of further study or protection and help trace the impacts of climate change on one of the Mojave's keystone species." Todd Esque, a Henderson-based ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, "described the process during a February outing with the Friends of the Arizona Joshua Tree Forest, a volunteer group devoted to preserving the nationally recognized stand of trees in Mohave County, Arizona, about 115 miles southeast of Las Vegas." Esque "said researchers will need to recruit an army of volunteer 'citizen scientists' to help map the entire desert."

### **Nor'easter Set To Hit U.S. East Coast With Floods, High Winds.**

Bloomberg News (3/1, Sullivan) reports that "a potentially record-breaking nor'easter is set to pummel the East Coast with wind, snow and rain Friday, putting billions of dollars of coastal real estate at risk from 'unprecedented flooding.'" The U.S. Geological Survey is "sending crews along the coast from Maine to Delaware to monitor the storm." Ronald Busciolano, a supervisory hydrologist with the USGS, said in a statement, "Nor'easters can cause higher tides than hurricanes in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic."

### **Opinion Pieces**

---

### **President Trump's Public Lands Agenda Is Extremely Unpopular.**

In an op-ed for The Hill (3/1, Arce), Maite Arce, president and CEO of the Hispanic Access Foundation, writes that "a new poll of California voters provides more evidence that the Trump administration's efforts to rollback protections on national monuments are not only widely unpopular, but also have communities concerned about the future of these special places." The Hispanic Access Foundation poll, "conducted by David Binder Research, found that more than three in four Californians (78 percent) oppose actions taken by President Trump late last year to remove protections from about 2 million acres of public lands from Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Escalante-Staircase National Monuments. Only 18 percent support his decision." Moreover, "among people of color, the opposition is 84 percent versus 12

percent in support.”

### **Our View: Offshore Drilling Not Worth The Risk.**

The [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (3/1) editorial board writes that BOEM representatives, who held the department’s “only public meeting in the state for commenting on the Trump administration’s plan to open our coast to offshore drilling” this week, were still greeted by “hundreds of environmentalists,” despite restrictions on public comments. The Journal says the North Carolina Petroleum Council’s David McGowan said, “Gov. Cooper and other outspoken opponents of offshore energy development have said ‘not off our coast’ or essentially ‘not in my backyard.’ This is not a productive, responsible state energy strategy.” However, according to the Journal, “actually it is. What’s irresponsible is risking such a unique treasure as our coast for temporary financial gain from a relatively limited resource.” The Journal concludes that the “proposal has drawn opposition from 14 coastal-state governors, Democrats and Republicans alike, including Gov. Henry McMaster of South Carolina and Florida Gov. Rick Scott, who has been promised an exemption from the drilling plan... These people know what they’ve got and they know what we know – it’s not worth the risk.”

### **Sentence Sends A Message.**

The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (3/1) editorializes that Malheur refuge takeover participant Ryan Payne’s prison sentence is important in light of the acquittals of other participants. According to the paper, “prosecutors’ failure to make so many of their charges stick has been read in some quarters as vindication of the Bundys, and of the idea that the federal government is so lacking in legitimacy that public property can be taken, used and destroyed without consequence.” However, “Payne’s sentence disrupts that story line.” It asserts that “the Malheur refuge takeover was an offense against every American, an offense against the far-sighted idea of natural resource conservation for the common good, and an offense against the Burns-Paiute tribe whose lands and artifacts were treated with recklessness and disrespect.”

### **Trump’s Tumultuous Cabinet, Ranked.**

In an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (3/1, Bump), Philip Bump ranks the heads of the 15 cabinet departments “from most to least tumultuous.” The least tumultuous position is the Secretary of Defense, followed by the heads of the USDA, DHS, Labor, Transportation, Energy, Commerce, Education, Treasury, Interior, State, DOJ, HUD, VA, and HHS. Regarding Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Bump cites the controroversies over Zinke travel, a contract granted by Puerto Rico “to a small company in Zinke’s small home town,” and the recent resignation of two scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey “after Zinke asked that they share confidential data on oil reserves before it was made public.”

### Additional Reading.

- *The Public, Elected Officials Needs More Information On Secretary Zinke's Goals.* [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (3/1).
- *PROGRESS: What Opening Up ANWR Means For Alaska's Energy Prospects.* [Anchorage \(AK\) Press](#) (3/1, Bradner).
- *Peg Howell Guest Column: The Future Of Our Coast Is In Your Hands.* [South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (3/1, Howell).
- *Botched Bison Management Needs Review.* [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/2).
- *This Bill Won't Help Coal Communities, But Rolling Back Regulations Will.* [Daily Signal](#) (3/1, Loris).
- *Public Is Losing Its Voice On Management Of 'Public' Land.* [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/2, Thompson).

### Top National News

---

#### **GOP Furious, Investors "Shaken" As Trump Announces Steel, Aluminum Tariffs.**

President Trump's announcement that he is following through on a campaign promise to levy tariffs on aluminum and steel generated extensive – and mostly unfavorable – media coverage, including scathing reports on all three major network newscasts. Media analyses cast the move as risking an all-out trade war and threatening the health of a seemingly resurgent US economy. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/1, Chandra, Miller), for example, bemoans the fact that Trump's announcement came "after data released Thursday morning showed recent tax cuts buoyed Americans' spending power in January, unemployment claims fell last week to an almost five-decade low and factories expanded in February at the fastest rate since 2004." Many reports also highlighted the sharp stock sell-off that followed the announcement, and noted that what little support there was for Trump's move came from Democrats – as Republicans were quite vocal in their opposition. At any rate, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/1, story 3, 2:20, Jackson) reported, Trump's move "is no surprise," as "he campaigned on it."

[NBC News](#) (3/1) refers to a "GOP meltdown over Trump plan," and reports "Republicans pounced" on the President's proposal "in an unprecedented way." [Roll Call](#) (3/1, Williams) similarly indicated the Republican reaction was "fast, furious and negative," while [The Hill](#) (3/1, Needham) casts Trump as "defying" the GOP. The [Washington Post](#) (2/28, Lynch, Paletta), in a similar analysis, remarks on the opposition to the move from "the business community, normally a reliable GOP ally."

On the other hand, [Bloomberg News](#) (3/1, Wasson) reports, "some Democrats are applauding" Trump's action, an "upside-down reaction" that "comes a day after Trump irked Republicans and pleased many Democrats by backing stricter gun-control measures." Sen. Sherrod Brown said, "This welcome action is long overdue for shuttered steel plants across Ohio and

steelworkers who live in fear that their jobs will be the next victims of Chinese cheating." Sen. Ron Wyden, meanwhile, is quoted as saying, "I am pleased that the president recognizes the importance of addressing these challenges and finally intends to take action."

The Hill (3/1, Samuels) reported that Sen. Bob Casey, up for reelection this fall, lauded Trump "for announcing plans to impose steep tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, saying it will help Pennsylvania workers." Casey is quoted as tweeting, "It has taken the Administration far too long, but today's announcement of an intention to act next week is a welcome step. When countries cheat on trade, Pennsylvania workers lose. I urge the Administration to follow through and to take aggressive measures to ensure our workers can compete on a level playing field." The Hill added that Casey is bidding for another term "in a state Trump narrowly won in 2016."

The  CBS Evening News (3/1, story 4, 1:55, Brennan) noted Brown's support for the tariffs, but went on to show GOP Sen. John Kennedy saying, "Once you start imposing tariffs, you don't do it in a vacuum. Other countries respond." Another Republican, Sen. Ben Sasse, "called the tariffs a 'massive tax increase on American families. You'd expect a policy this bad from a leftist administration, not a supposedly Republican one.'" CBS showed Press Secretary Sarah Sanders retorting, "I don't know that the President will or should ever apologize for protecting American workers, and certainly not to Sen. Sasse."  NBC Nightly News (3/1, story 3, 2:20, Jackson) showed Sen. Orrin Hatch saying, "This is just going to be a huge tax on American citizens," and NBC reported that Speaker Ryan said "he hopes the President will consider the unintended consequences." Reuters (3/1, Holland, Gibson), meanwhile, quotes Sen. Pat Roberts as warning, "Every time you do this, you get a retaliation. Agriculture is the number one target. I think this is terribly counterproductive for the agriculture economy."

The Washington Post (2/28, Lynch, Paletta) reports "investors appeared shaken by the news," with the Dow down "around 586 points, a loss of 2 percent, in early-afternoon trading before closing the day down 420 points." Reuters (3/1, Valetkevitch) reports the Dow "fell...1.68 percent, to 24,608.98, the S&P 500 .SPX lost 36.16 points, or 1.33 percent, to 2,677.67 and the Nasdaq Composite .IXIC dropped 92.45 points, or 1.27 percent, to 7,180.56." Bloomberg News (2/28, Walt, Mullen), the New York Times (3/1, Phillips) and the Wall Street Journal (3/1, B1, Wursthorn), among other news outlets, devote stories to the stock numbers - which were noted across much of the reporting of Trump's decision. Reuters (3/1, Carey, Banerjee) reports that "shares of General Motors Co lost 3.97 percent, Ford Motor Co was down 3.0 percent and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles was down 2.8 percent."

The Detroit Free Press (3/1, Spangler) recounts that "speaking to more than a dozen steel and aluminum executives at the White House, Trump said he would sign tariffs of 25% on imported steel and 10% on



imported aluminum next week." Trump said the measure will be "for a long period of time," and he further told the executives, "We'll be signing it in. And you'll have protection for the first time in a long while and you're going to regrow your industries. That's all I'm asking." The AP (3/1, Thomas, Wiseman) further quotes Trump as saying, "What's been allowed to go on for decades is disgraceful. It's disgraceful. ... When it comes to a time when our country can't make aluminum and steel...you almost don't have much of a country."

Breitbart (3/1, Spiering) reports Trump also said, "People have no idea how badly our country has been treated by other countries by people representing us that didn't have a clue or if they did, then they should be ashamed of themselves. ... Because they have destroyed the steel industry," and "we're bringing it all back."

NPR (3/1, Ydstie, Schneider) reported "the decision follows a study by the Commerce Department that found that large amounts of steel and aluminum imports posed a threat to US national security." The finding "gives the White House the authority to limit imports by tariffs or other means."

The Daily Caller (3/1, Datoc) reports "the president hinted at his reasoning for the tariffs in a tweet earlier Thursday morning." Wrote Trump, "Our Steel and Aluminum industries (and many others) have been decimated by decades of unfair trade and bad policy with countries from around the world. We must not let our country, companies and workers be taken advantage of any longer. We want free, fair and SMART TRADE!"

The Washington Times (3/1, Boyer, Miller) notes that "at the meeting, US Steel Corp. CEO Dave Burritt said competing with foreign companies that use unfair trade practices was like playing 'the whack-a-mole game.'" Added Burritt, "We are not protectionists. We want a level playing field."

***Action On Tariffs Follows Fierce White House Debate.*** The AP (3/1, Thomas, Wiseman) reports "the decision had been strenuously debated within the White House, with top officials such as economic adviser Gary Cohn and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis raising concerns." The penalties, on the other hand, "were pushed by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, an economist who has favored taking aggressive action."

The New York Times (3/1, Swanson) also reports "advisers have been bitterly divided over how to proceed on the tariffs," but "in recent weeks, a group of White House advisers who advocate a tougher posture on trade has been in ascendance, including Robert Lighthizer, the country's top trade negotiator, and...Navarro, a trade skeptic who had been sidelined but is now in line for a promotion."

Politico (2/28, Restuccia, Behsudi) recounts that "shortly before he resigned amid domestic abuse allegations, White House staff secretary Rob Porter got into a heated argument about the tariffs with Navarro in the Oval Office in front of the president, according to a person familiar with the

issue." However, "Porter's resignation removed a fierce opponent of the tariffs from the West Wing and revived the chaotic policy review process that defined the early weeks of Trump's presidency."

According to [Breitbart](#) (3/1, Spiering), "several White House officials tried to enact a frantic, last-ditch effort to stop Trump's decision on Thursday, leaking details of dysfunction and division in the White House to the media." But "Trump told reporters that he had made his decision."

Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/1) that most of the President's advisers think the move is a "horrible idea and most were try to trying to convince him not to do it, with some notable exceptions," such as Navarro. The President "scheduled this very quickly and very hastily. It almost seems as if he was trying to do it without letting everybody inside the White House that he was trying to do it so he could get away with it. Was he doing it to change the subject from all of the news we have been dealing with lately? Did he just want to look decisive and effective? Maybe. But, the stock market plunged over 400 points. You have people inside the White House now scrambling because they are upset with what has occurred."

Mike Allen of [Axios](#) said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/1), "It was a surprise, and it was not just a surprise not just to the markets. It was a shock inside. I can't overstate how unusual it is for White House aides, a couple hours before a big presidential event, to have no idea. This tells you how they think compared to how the President thinks. They were telling us he can't do this, the paperwork isn't done. The President has been saying he wants to do this. Axios has reported, in some meeting he said bring me my tariffs. This is a President getting what he wanted."

Katie Pavlich of [Townhall](#) said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/1), "The Administration is gambling on the idea that the ends will justify the means. They know it's a big risk. History shows that tariffs aren't always good for the United States, and they certainly aren't good when it comes to putting taxes on our allies."

***"Person Close To Cohn" Says Trade Decision Could Lead Him To Leave White House.*** [Politico](#) (3/1, White, Restuccia) reports "one person close to Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs executive, said he wouldn't be surprised if he eventually left the chaotic and deeply exhausting administration as a result of the decision." Meanwhile, "a second person close to Cohn described it as a brutal blow that violated one of the NEC director's core beliefs --that protectionism is economically backward and won't lead to increased prosperity."

***Media Analyses: Trump's Course On Trade Will Hurt Consumers, Overall Economy.*** [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/1, story 3, 2:20, Jackson) concluded last night that the tariffs mean "you could pay more for products made with steel and aluminum. ... How much more could you pay for a car or washing machine? Still unclear." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/1, story 7, 1:10, Muir), Rebecca Jarvis said "the primary concern" for investors is that "while this is helpful to US steel and aluminum companies, it also means that the

cost for US manufacturers on those materials go up, and that could ultimately get passed along to consumers. ... Think of anything that involves a can: beer, soda. Think of building materials. All of those costs start to go up in the case of these tariffs."

Deirdre Bolton of Fox Business Network said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/1) that "potential trade wars also threaten American exporters. An American firm can lose access point blank to a foreign market or American goods are taxed so heavily in retaliation that lost money and lost jobs follow."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/1) blasts the move as a tax hike, and predicts it will hurt both the economy and Trump's voters. The [Washington Post](#) (3/1) editorializes, "Race to the bottom, trade war: Call it what you will, the spiral will eventually harm everyone, the United States and its metal industries very much included."

[CNN Money](#) (3/1, Gillespie) said "at the heart of the looming trade action is Trump's campaign promise to create good-paying jobs in the United States, particularly in factories, by getting tough on trade." However, "researchers...say automation is much more of a job-killer and the United States should focus more on job training than tariffs."

Bob Bryan reports for [Business Insider](#) (3/1, Bryan) that "studies show that these types of moves typically result in a small boost for the industries and serious negative consequences for the broader US economy." [Roll Call](#) (3/1, Ferguson) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/1, Nicholas, Schlesinger), among other news outlets, run similar accounts this morning.

[Reuters](#) (3/1, Seba, Gardner), meanwhile, reports the "US oil and gas industry on Thursday slammed...Trump's plan," saying "the move would kill energy jobs by raising costs for big infrastructure projects." Reuters adds "officials at the nation's top energy industry trade groups issued statements urging Trump to drop the idea, and a source familiar with Exxon Mobil's investment plans said the tariff could lead the company to curtail an expansion of one of the country's biggest oil refineries." Said the API's Jack Gerard, "These tariffs would undoubtedly raise costs for US businesses that rely heavily on steel and aluminum for the majority of their products - and ultimately consumers."

***Europeans, Canadians, Mexicans, Chinese Express Outrage.*** [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/1) reported that "the action is predominantly aimed at China, which is dumping cheap steel products into the US," but the move "may affect America's closest allies. Canada declared any tariff against steel would be unacceptable. Britain said we are particularly concerned by any measures that would impact the UK steel and aluminum industries." Richard Quest reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/1) that "we've heard from the Brits, the Canadians...and we've heard from the Mexicans as well. They are all saying the same things: 'if you introduce these tariffs, we will retaliate.' That's what you've seen in the market today."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/28, Lynch, Paletta) reports that "in a further

slap at China, Trump announced the tariffs even as a top Chinese economic official was in Washington for talks aimed at forestalling a possible trade war." Liu He, who is "one of Chinese President Xi Jinping's closest aides, is scheduled to meet with senior administration officials in a bid to restart a direct economic dialogue that lagged last year." China's Foreign Ministry "repeated its government's objections," saying, "The United States is disregarding the rules of the WTO, and China is dissatisfied with this."

Reuters (3/1) reports European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker also said, "We will not sit idly while our industry is hit with unfair measures that put thousands of European jobs at risk ... The EU will react firmly and commensurately to defend our interests." Reuters (3/1) notes that the German Steel Association also reacted to the news, saying in a statement, "The US is setting up a customs barrier to protect itself from steel imports from all over the world. This measure clearly violates the rules of the World Trade Organization."

Bloomberg News (3/1, Bochove, Wingrove, Owram) says "Canada is vowing to retaliate." Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said, "We will always stand up for Canadian workers and Canadian businesses," and "should restrictions be imposed on Canadian steel and aluminum products, Canada will take responsive measures to defend its trade interests and workers." Reuters (3/1, Schnurr, Hopkins) reports Freeland, however, "did not give details and Canadian officials were not immediately available for comment."

David Swerdlick of the Washington Post said on CNN's Situation Room (3/1), "You have a situation here where President Trump has been consistent on this. He campaigned saying he wouldn't be afraid to use tariffs. ... Back in November the US Trade Commission started looking into this. Now they are taking action. The problem is not just that you could tank the stock market like what happened today but that you're going to antagonize China, a country we are working with or against on a whole bunch of fronts just for the slim possibility that you're going to slightly shift the trade balance."

***Morning Consult Poll: 59% Back Tariffs On Chinese Steel And Aluminum.*** Breitbart (3/1, Binder) reports that "in a Morning Consult poll, 59 percent of Americans say it is 'important' that...Trump place tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, specifically from China, showing a wide range of support for the White House's economic nationalist agenda." Breitbart adds that "about 66 percent of voters said shrinking America's more than \$375 billion trade deficit with China was key, as well as 56 percent who said they wanted to see the Trump administration challenge China's leaders on intellectual property protection, and 44 percent who said they want China labeled as a currency manipulator."

### **NRA Lobbyist Suggests Trump Has Backed Off Support For Gun Control.**

While President Trump expressed optimism Thursday that a bill "should

emerge" from Wednesday's White House meeting on school safety and media coverage of Trump's comments in the wake of the Florida school shooting highlight Trump's apparent agreement with some Democratic ideas, a tweet late Thursday from the NRA's chief lobbyist suggested that Trump may have backed away from that support.

The New York Times (3/1, Shear, Stolberg, Kaplan) reports that Chris Cox, the NRA's top lobbyist claimed Thursday night that Trump "had retreated from his surprising support a day earlier for gun control measures after a meeting with N.R.A. officials and Vice President Mike Pence in the Oval Office." In a tweet posted just after 9 p.m., Cox wrote that he met with Trump and Pence and added that "we all want safe schools, mental health reform and to keep guns away from dangerous people. POTUS & VPOTUS support the Second Amendment, support strong due process and don't want gun control. #NRA #MAGA." About an hour later, Trump tweeted, "Good (Great) meeting in the Oval Office tonight with the NRA!" The Times says the tweets "suggest that it may have taken the gun rights group only about 24 hours to persuade the president to back away from the positions he took embracing Democratic gun control measures" during a meeting with lawmakers on Wednesday.

The Washington Examiner (3/1, Chaitin) says Trump's "enthusiastic" tweet came one day after he "roiled gun rights advocates when he suggested illegally taking away guns from dangerous people." Similarly, the New York Post (3/1, Tacopino) says the tweet came "one day after Trump told lawmakers to take people's guns away and 'go through due process second.'" The Washington Times (3/1, Morton) says Cox "promptly retweeted the president."

Politico (3/1, Nelson) reports that in a tweet earlier Thursday, Trump "declar[ed] that 'a bill should emerge' from the conversations that have begun in the wake" of the Florida school shooting. Trump tweeted, "Many ideas, some good & some not so good, emerged from our bipartisan meeting on school safety yesterday at the White House. ... Background Checks a big part of conversation. Gun free zones are proven targets of killers. After many years, a bill should emerge. Respect 2nd Amendment!"

ABC World News Tonight (3/1, story 6, 2:55, Muir) reported that during his White House meeting with lawmakers Wednesday, President Trump "agree[d] with the Democrats in the room on several ideas, including universal background checks." However, ABC (Karl) added that some of Trump's "most reliable Republican friends in Congress said point blank they couldn't support some of the ideas he embraced." The New York Times (3/1, Qiu) examines "the claims made" by lawmakers during Wednesday's meeting "that may have strayed from the facts or otherwise require some additional context."

The AP (3/1, Mascaró, Daly, Lucey) describes Republicans as cautious, while other reports put Republicans' reaction in stronger terms. For example, The Hill (3/1, Zanona) says House conservatives were "baffled" by Trump's "support for a string of Democratic-backed gun

control ideas, with some lawmakers even questioning how committed he is to protecting the Second Amendment," and Politico (3/1, Everett, Bade) says Trump "threw decades of party orthodoxy on gun rights out the window" and the response "among congressional Republicans was a mix of disbelief, denial and outrage."

Sen. Ben Sasse said on Fox News' Special Report (3/1), "Here is what America means. It means that we believe rights come to us from God via nature and government exists to secure and protect our rights. Government doesn't give us rights. When you say something like we'll take the guns first, we'll grab the guns first and later we will have a due process conversation, what that means is government's first and hopefully you have a bureaucrat you trust to decide what rights you have. That's not how America works."

Rep. Jodey Arrington said on Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight (3/1) that Trump is "going down that slippery slope, that knee-jerk reaction we are accustomed to whether you have mass shootings and I would oppose President Obama and I would oppose President trump and any President that negotiates away what is a fundamental right and quite frankly it's a right that if it were not exercised by our founding patriots, we wouldn't have the rest of our rights and we wouldn't have our independence."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, asked on MSNBC's Morning Joe (3/1) about the President's proposal to raise the age to buy a firearm to 21, said, "I think it definitely for the AR-15 it should be 21. I'm open to the question of shotguns and things because I think there's plenty of reasons to have a shotgun for hunting." Asked about expanding background checks, Kinzinger said, "Here's my question. The answer in this is going to be in the details. Now if my dad wants to sell me his pistol, does he have to put me through a federal background check. That is a question. But, is there are areas where people are buying guns and not having background checks, I am definitely open to closing that."

Rep. Sean Duffy said on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (3/1), "I think there is a whole bunch of issues taking place outside of guns. I think our kids in America are angry. They are being raised in single family homes without fathers. ... There is a whole slew of issues in America that we didn't have 40 years ago. We have to address the root cause of what is bringing kids to be so angry and detached."

Meanwhile, Roll Call (3/1, Connolly) reports that Democrats "pressured the president to keep his word." Sen. Chris Murphy "urged the administration to follow through on the president's words Wednesday," saying, "The White House can now launch a lobbying campaign to get universal background checks passed, as the president promised in this meeting, or they can sit and do nothing." The Washington Times (3/1, Sherfinski) reports that Senate Democrats said Thursday that "any bill must expand background checks and allow court-ordered gun confiscations" and "demand[ed] a vote on a semi-automatic rifle ban –

though they said that is not a deal-breaker if it doesn't become law." Minority Leader Schumer said his caucus "is prepared to provide a 'very large' number of votes for those priorities."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (3/1), "My colleagues that were in the meeting about Dreamers left there and were ebullient and thought something was going to get done and we were obviously undermined the last day after a group of Democrats, Republicans...had come together with a common sense idea about how to make sure those kids could stay in the country and we had border security." Klobuchar added that "one difference" now is that "it was a very clear focus on universal background check. He didn't say it once or twice. He said it like ten times and the American people are focused on this right now. ... For him to say that to the American people and turn back on that, I think that would be something like we've never seen in terms of a betrayal. So, it is on him now not only to keep up that focus, but also to get the members of his own party to get behind it."

Rep. Stephanie Murphy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (3/1), "I was really heartened by what the President said and some of the commitments that he made to see this through to the end." Murphy added that this "might be a Nixon goes to China moment for Trump. He might be the only President who can help us advance some commonsense gun safety measures because...nobody believes he's trying to take away anybody's guns."

Joe Scarborough writes in the [Washington Post](#) (3/1) that Trump may "decide that this is the time for real progress on common-sense gun-safety legislation" because "it's the right thing to do" or because "it's the smart thing to do. But if he chooses instead to let his party continue to languish in fear, Republicans will just be giving Americans one more reason to vote them out of power – and relegate Trumpism to the ash heap of history."

***Trump's Openness To Gun Legislation Sets Off Scramble In Senate.*** [Politico](#) (3/1, Schor) says Trump's "unexpected openness to expansive gun control measures set off a scramble in the Senate Thursday, with lawmakers in both parties laying out a raft of competing proposals and jockeying for position." The "flurry of action suggests Trump's wild-card support Wednesday for proposals to expand background checks and raise the age limit for certain rifle purchases has caused plenty of political ripples – if not yet a wave big enough to unite lawmakers behind a single approach."

Sen. Pat Toomey said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (3/1) that he and Sen. Joe Manchin "are definitely going to move forward if we can. We are actively soliciting support for our bill. There are several Republican senators who voted against it in the 2013 who have told me they are reconsidering so I am hopeful about that. I think the President's very aggressive support for expanding background checks is encouraging." Toomey was asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (3/1) about the President's comment that he is afraid of the NRA. Toomey said, "Let's think

about how ridiculous that is. I'm the guy that wrote the bill that the NRA opposed. The Manchin-Toomey legislation was strongly opposed by the NRA. They didn't endorse me in my re-election. They haven't given me a dime since 2010. I'm the guy that stood up to the NRA among Republicans."

Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/1), "The President just told me last night, we had a conversation late last night about yesterday's session. He told me last night that there are elements of the Toomey-Manchin bill and there are elements of the Cornyn-Murphy bill he is supportive of and he has made that very clear. I think that itself shows some bipartisan impulses, but he also is very respectful of the Second Amendment and the law-abiding citizens who own and possess their firearms in a peaceful way and that they have their rights also and he knows that."

NRA spokeswoman Dana Loesch said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/1), "I listened to that discussion of Manchin-Toomey yesterday. Toomey himself even said that this bill would not have done anything to prevented this atrocity. It simply wouldn't have. When you talk about the background check system and you talk about keeping firearms out of the hand of those mentally unstable, therefore danger to themselves or others, this is something we're all in agreement on, which is why it is inconceivable to millions of Americans families why they're the ones being punished for failures of government. We all have to realize the firearm did not walk itself in the school. It was allowed to after 45 missed calls."

***Pelosi Optimistic About Comprehensive Gun Legislation Without Assault Weapons Ban.*** The Los Angeles Times (3/1) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi expressed optimism that "Congress can pass comprehensive gun legislation, but said she doesn't expect an assault weapons ban to be part of such a measure." Speaking at her weekly news conference, Pelosi said, "It might not be [an] assault weapon ban, but practically anything short of that is what we would expect. ... That might take longer. We need to have the best package we can get done now."

***Trump To Discuss Violent Video Games With Industry Reps Next Week.*** The New York Post (3/1, Moore) reports that the President will meet next week "with members of the video game industry next week after he suggested the games and movies should be rated for violent content during a meeting with bipartisan lawmakers." Press secretary Sarah Sanders said of the gun control issue, "The president has met with a number of stakeholders. ... Next week he'll also be meeting with members of the video game industry to see what they can do on that front. ... This is going to be an ongoing process and something we don't expect to happen overnight, but something we'll continue to be engaged in."

***Hundreds Of School Districts Already Arming Teachers.*** In the wake of President Trump's suggestion that teachers be trained to carry firearms, the New York Times (3/1, Green, Fernandez) reports that "hundreds of school districts across the country, most of them small and rural, already



have.”

Breitbart (3/1, Hope) reports that the Fayetteville Independent School District this week “joined nearly 200 other Texas school districts in arming their employees to protect students under a ‘Guardian’ program.” Superintendent Jeff Harvey “told KVUE the goal of the program was not to create vigilante teachers,” and said the guardians are “a protection for each and every student in this school district.” Harvey added, “We have numerous folks on staff that have military backgrounds. ... Everyone here believes in that sense of protectiveness of their kids. Each one of these kids is ours. We treat them like they’re our own and we want to make sure we’re prepared to do whatever it takes to protect them.”

In a separate story, Breitbart (3/1, Hawkins) reports that the Pike County, Kentucky School Board has “voted to work with the Pike County Sheriff’s Office to train and arm teachers for school safety.” According to Kentucky.com, the vote was “unanimous” in favor of armed teachers.

***After Voicing Support For Gun Control, Rubio Offers “Less Controversial” Measure.*** The Washington Post (3/1, Sullivan) reports that while Sen. Marco Rubio “endorsed raising the age requirement for buying a rifle from 18 to 21 and voiced openness to placing limits on the size of ammunition magazines” eight days ago, on Thursday, when he “unveiled his plan to address gun violence, he did not outline any specific plans on these very divisive fronts.” Instead, he “embraced a series of other, less controversial measures” including “freeing up more federal dollars to beef up school security and create ‘crisis interventions teams’; creating gun violence restraining orders; pressing school districts to promptly alert law enforcement to dangerous behavior; passing a bipartisan bill to tighten the National Instant Background Check System; and mandating the FBI notify states when a prohibited person tries to buy a gun and fails the requisite background check.”

The Miami Herald (3/1, Daugherty, Smiley) says Rubio argued on the Senate floor “that local law enforcement and school officials could have prevented the massacre in Parkland and urged Congress to pass narrowly tailored bills on school safety and mental health that have support from both parties,” but he “barely mentioned guns.”

***FCC Chairman Turns Down NRA Award.*** Politico (3/1, McGill) reports that FCC Chairman Pai on Thursday declined “an NRA gun award he received at the Conservative Political Action Conference last week, citing the advice of ethics officials at his agency.” An NRA executive named Pai “the Charlton Heston Courage Under Fire Award recipient at CPAC for his efforts to repeal the Obama-era net neutrality rules,” but Pai, “in letters sent Thursday to the NRA and to the American Conservative Union, which puts on the conference, noted he was ‘surprised’ by the award and turned down the gun.”

***WTimes Analysis: NRA Remains One Of Most Successful Lobbying Groups.*** The Washington Times (3/1, Varney) reports that while NRA “has become politically toxic in Washington,” the “electoral scorecard shows that

the NRA represents many people and is effective." In terms of "money and candidates, the NRA ranks among the most successful lobbying groups." NRA-backed candidates "prevailed in 73.3 percent of the 2016 races where the NRA picked sides, and when judged by spending, 94.4 percent of the organization's political money supported successful candidates."

***Georgia Senate Punishes Delta Over NRA Stance.*** The New York Times (3/1, Fausset) reports that the Georgia Senate on Thursday approved a measure "that stripped out a tax break proposal highly coveted by Delta Air Lines – the most stinging punishment that America's pro-gun forces have leveled so far on one of the many corporations recalibrating their positions on firearms after the Florida high school massacre." The \$50 million sales tax exemption on jet fuel "had been included in a broader tax-relief bill," but "a number of Georgia Republicans, including Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, removed the perk as retribution for Delta's decision to end a promotional discount for members of the National Rifle Association."

***Kroger Raises Age For Gun Purchases At Fred Meyer Stores To 21.*** USA Today (3/1, Bomey) reports that Kroger announced Thursday that it is "banning gun sales at its Fred Meyer stores to anyone younger than 21." According to Kroger, the decision came "in response to the tragic events in Parkland and elsewhere."

***Former FBI Agents Say FBI Mishandled Tips On Florida School Shooter.*** The Miami Herald (3/1, Gordon, Weaver) reports that "many former FBI agents and law enforcement experts" believe the FBI "failed at basic detective work — and in multiple ways" before the Florida school shooting. The "most alarming warning" not only suggested that Nikolas Cruz "was a likely school shooter but that he also could be influenced by the Islamic terror group ISIS, both glaring red flags for national security." However, "a specialist and supervisor at the FBI's civilian call center in West Virginia didn't pass the warning on to field agents in South Florida."

***Contrary To Training, BSO Captain Told Deputies To Form Perimeter Around Parkland Shooting.*** The Miami Herald (3/1, DeMarzo, Nehamas) reports that Capt. Jan Jordan, the Broward Sheriff's Office captain "who initially took charge of the chaotic scene at a Parkland high school...told deputies to form a perimeter around the deadly scene – which they did instead of going in to confront the shooter, according to a partial BSO dispatch log obtained by the Miami Herald." Sheriff Scott Israel "has said BSO training and nationwide active-shooter procedure call for armed law enforcement officers to confront shooters immediately rather than secure a scene." The Herald says the log "raises fresh questions about the department's handling of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14."

***Couples Carry Assault-Style Rifles As They Exchange Vows In "Pro-Gun" Church.*** The Washington Post (3/1, Phillips) reports that "dozens of couples" wearing crowns and carrying "assault-style rifles" went "to a pro-gun Pennsylvania church for a commitment ceremony on Wednesday." The couples "are worshipers at the World Peace and Unification Sanctuary, also

known as the Sanctuary Church" in Newfoundland, Pennsylvania. Church leader Hyung Jin Moon "called on his followers to bring unloaded rifles to the ceremony."

***WPost Voices Support For "Red Flag" Laws.*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/1) argues that "whether or not Congress adds muscle to gun laws," states "need not be impotent in the face of credible threats." The Post voices support for "red-flag" laws that "empower relatives and close friends, as well as law enforcement officers, to ask judges to issue 'gun violence restraining orders,'" arguing that if Florida had such a law, "it's possible that the Parkland rampage could have been averted."

### **Trump Touts Manufacturing Growth, 49-Year Low In Jobless Claims.**

In a pair of tweets Thursday evening, President Trump touted positive economic news, writing in one, "Jobless claims at a 49 year low!" and in another, "Manufacturing growing at the fastest pace in almost two decades!" Breitbart (3/1, Carney) reports that new unemployment claims "fell to their lowest level since 1969 last week." While economists anticipated "226,000 new jobless claims, a rise over the previous week," claims "unexpectedly fell by 10,000 to 210,000 in the week ending on February 24."

***Powell Offers Upbeat View Of Economy.*** The Wall Street Journal (3/1, Timiraos) reports that in two days of congressional testimony this week, Fed Chairman Powell offered an upbeat assessment of the economy and left open the possibility of four quarter-point interest rate increases in 2018.

### **EPA Begins Dismantling Obama Methane Rules.**

The Washington Examiner (3/1, Siciliano) reports the EPA on Thursday "announced two piecemeal actions" aimed at reducing "costs and regulatory 'burdens' imposed on the oil and natural gas industry by the Obama administration's methane emission rules." The agency said the two actions would mitigate "'significant and immediate compliance concerns' for the industry, while reducing 'burdens' on state environmental agencies and saving millions of dollars in compliance costs." Recently appointed EPA air pollution chief Bill Wehrum said, "The technical amendments to the 2016 oil and gas [new source rule] are meant to alleviate targeted regulatory compliance issues faced by affected sources. While this action addresses an immediate need, it does not deter the ongoing work at the agency to assess the 2016 rule as a whole, including whether it is prudent or necessary to directly regulate methane."

***Wyoming Fights Methane Rule, Again.*** The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/1, Richards) reports that "Wyoming is trying to bring the methane rule fight back to federal court in the Cowboy State with the aim of scrapping the regulations until the Interior Department gives the country new ones." Wyoming and "other industry states say compliance is unfair and the rule should be tabled until the Interior is finished with its revision process." The

state counsel argued in court documents filed Wednesday, "Neither the regulated community nor the BLM is capable of switching on compliance with the Waste Prevention Rule overnight."

### **EPA Moves To Roll Back Further Clean Air, Water Rules.**

The [AP](#) (3/1, Biesecker, Brown) reports the EPA announced Thursday "it is rewriting Obama-era rules governing pollution from oil and gas operations and coal ash dumps, moves that opponents say will significantly weaken protections for human health and the environment." The proposed changes are "the latest in series of actions taken over the last year to roll back regulations opposed by the fossil-fuel industry" and the EPA argues "the revisions would save electric utilities \$100 million per year in compliance costs, while oil and gas operators would reap up to \$16 million in benefits by 2035." However, opponents and environmental advocates expect the revisions to "lead to dirtier air and water." In a statement, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Bill Wehrum said the changes will "provide regulatory certainty to one of the largest sectors of the American economy and avoid unnecessary compliance costs to both covered entities and the states."

*Proposed Changes To EPA rule Would Give States More Power To Manage Toxic Coal Ash.* According to the [Washington Post](#) (3/1, Dennis, Eilperin), the EPA proposed "significant" updates to "an Obama-era initiative to regulate coal ash waste" that will give "states and utilities more latitude in how they dispose of the potentially toxic substance." The Post reports that the "proposal includes more than a dozen suggested changes regarding the way coal ash is stored at more than 400 coal-fired power plants around the country, namely that it would allow 'alternative performance standards' for state and federally permitted facilities."

### **Corporate America Seen Taking On Issues The Government Won't.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (3/1, Campbell, Simmons) reports on a trend of US companies "pressured to act on controversial social and political issues where government won't." The trend is "currently manifested by firms cutting ties to the National Rifle Association and efforts by large investors to reduce exposure to gun-makers," but continues moving forward "on issues that Washington has failed to tackle," such as benefits for working mothers, climate change, or support for politically vulnerable groups." Many corporate pledges are as much marketing as substance" and "few believe that voluntary actions taken by businesses can substitute for meaningful government action," Bloomberg reports, noting a lack of consistency across the economy as just one tobacco firm is among 609 companies that score highly for LGBT protections.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

#### **New York Times.**

*"Intrigue In The House Of Trump."* In the first part of an editorial

series on "nepotism in the White House," the New York Times (3/1) says that one of the President's "most disturbing departures from tradition was his appointment of close relatives to positions at the very apex of government power," and the "consequences of that ethical break" are now being seen. The Times argues that Trump's "behavior is a warning that ethical traditions and culture are not enough" and calls on lawmakers to "harden some of these norms into law, to safeguard the executive branch and the public trust from future presidents eager to use America's highest office to benefit their families."

**"Jared Kushner Flames Out."** In the second part of an editorial series on "nepotism" in the White House, the New York Times (3/1, Board) says that while Trump "voices high praise for [Jared] Kushner's talent, the fact that he's family is qualification enough for a president obsessed with close-lipped loyalty and uninterested in policy unless it benefits himself." The Times argues that Kushner's "paltry" accomplishments in one year demonstrate "why, from the nation's founding to the present day, the architects of American democracy have tried so mightily to restrict the hiring of presidential relatives." The Times adds that if Congress would "require that presidential appointees across the federal government possess relevant credentials and experience, that they meet enforceable performance metrics, and...that they can pass a background check," it would "prove [Kushner's] only real achievement."

**"Ivanka Trump: Brand Building At The White House."** In the third part of an editorial series on "nepotism in the White House," the New York Times (3/1, Board) says that before President Trump no American president "has given such an underqualified son or daughter a White House post, and [Ivanka] Trump's tenure demonstrates why." The Times says that "no policymaker truly committed to the agenda Ms. Trump espouses would have joined this administration. No presidential adviser with the values she claims would still be working for a president so determined to lay waste to them." The Times asks why she remains in the Administration and says the answers "could only be family allegiance, personal gain, or plans – wildly optimistic plans, in light of the F.B.I. noose tightening around this White House – for a dynastic political career," which are "precisely what the founders condemned as nepotism's dangers to democracy."

**"No Matter The Verdict, Corruption Trial Taints Cuomo."** The New York Times (3/1) argues in an editorial that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo would benefit from forgoing suspicious campaign donations in order to demonstrate that "he's sticking to both the spirit of the rules and his own ethics agenda." Cuomo's former aide and family friend Joseph Percoco is on trial for charges of accepting bribes, and Cuomo has "repeatedly urged the Legislature to close" a campaign finance loophole which he himself has used "to plow many hundreds of thousands of dollars from corporate donors into a campaign strongbox containing more than \$30 million." The Times argues that to end such actions would be what is "in some circles...called walking the walk."

### **Washington Post.**

***"Trump's Tariffs Will Hurt All Americans."*** The Washington Post (3/1) editorializes, "Race to the bottom, trade war: Call it what you will, the spiral will eventually harm everyone, the United States and its metal industries very much included."

***"There's Something States Can Do About Gun Violence: 'Red-Flag' Laws."***

In an editorial the Washington Post (3/1) argues that "whether or not Congress adds muscle to gun laws," states "need not be impotent in the face of credible threats." The Post voices support for "red-flag" laws that "empower relatives and close friends, as well as law enforcement officers, to ask judges to issue 'gun violence restraining orders,'" arguing that if Florida had such a law, "it's possible that the Parkland rampage could have been averted."

***"Children Are Killed For Insurance Money. Maryland Is Doing Something About It."*** The Washington Post (3/1) writes that legislation in the Maryland House and Senate requiring insurance companies "to tighten underwriting standards and procedures before writing life insurance policies on children" is a positive step toward guarding "against fraud and evil intent" around buying insurance on a child's life. The Post cites the case of 15-month-old Prince McLeod Rams, who was murdered "by a father who had secretly and fraudulently obtained more than \$500,000 in life insurance on the boy." The editors "would have preferred even stricter requirements," and urge states like Virginia to follow suit.

### **Wall Street Journal.**

***"Trump's Tariff Folly."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/1) blasts President Trump's decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum as a tax hike, and predicts it will hurt both the economy and Trump's voters.

***"A Shady Joint-Employer Ambush."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/1) criticizes National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Inspector General David Berry for his investigation into Board member Bill Emanuel for a conflict-of-interest following the NLRB's decision to reverse an Obama-era standard that contractors had "indirect control" over their subcontractors' employees. The Journal argues that Berry's case against Emanuel was off-track, because Emanuel's former employer was not directly involved in the case from which Berry argues he should have recused himself. The Journal also asserts that finding such a conflict-of-interest would exclude too great a number of decision-makers from many cases, and sets a double standard by not investigating Obama NLRB appointee Craig Becker, who participated in cases involving his former employer. The Journal says these actions should prompt the Senate to take up bipartisan legislation passed in the House last year setting a "direct-control" standard for subcontractors.

***"South Africa's Economic Peril."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/1) editorializes that the South African National Assembly's vote on Tuesday that will begin amending the constitution to allow land expropriation

without compensation is disappointing. The editors argue that the move will perpetuate failing economic policies. The government is also claiming that expropriation would help overcome apartheid-era land tenure discrimination, but survey data show that these issues are largely resolved.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[Trump To Impose Steep Aluminum And Steel Tariffs](#)

[Boom In Share Buybacks Renews Question Of Who Wins From Tax Cuts](#)  
[China, Finally, Clamps Down On North Korea Trade—And The Impact Is Stinging](#)

[Turmoil On Madison Avenue As Marketers Push For Change](#)

#### ***New York Times:***

[Trump To Impose Sweeping Steel And Aluminum Tariffs](#)

[Trump's Chaos Theory For The Oval Office Is Taking Its Toll](#)

[Putin's "Invincible" Missile Is Aimed At US Vulnerabilities](#)

[Trump Wants To Arm Teachers. These Schools Already Do.](#)

[Trump Targets MS-13, A Violent Menace, If Not The One He Portrays](#)

[Alberto Carvalho Backs Out Of New York City Schools Job](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[Tough Talk From Russia](#)

[Relations With US At Worst Point Since Cold War](#)

[Trump Draws His Line On Trade](#)

[Hundreds Say Renowned Teacher Harassed Girls](#)

[24 Hours Of Chaos Leave Legislators, Aides Reeling](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[Russia To Deploy "Unstoppable" Nuclear Weapons Says Putin](#)

[Donald Trump To Slap 25% Tariff On Steel Imports](#)

[Asian Bike-Sharing Companies Find Road Is Tougher In Europe](#)

[Social Media Faces EU "1-Hour Rule" On Taking Down Terror Content](#)

#### ***Washington Times:***

[Trump To Slap Tariffs On Steel, Aluminum](#)

[Liberal Causes, Trump-Bashing To Pull Spotlight From Hollywood Scandals At Oscars](#)

[NRA Spends Big — And Gets Its Money's Worth At Ballot Box](#)

[Democrats Demand Bill With Expanded Background Checks, Gun Confiscations](#)

[Anti-Establishment Five-Star Movement Set To Upend Italian Politics](#)

[In A Hemisphere Of Crises, Low-Profile OAS Faces "Irrelevancy Trap"](#)

### ***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Severe Weather-West Coast; Kushner Controversy; H.R. McMaster-Possible Resignation; Russia-Putin; Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Trump-Trade Tariffs; Trump Cabinet-Spending Controversy; Virginia-Family Murder; Chicago Traffic Accident; Dallas House Explosion; Cooking Hardware Recall; Academy Awards.

**CBS:** Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Travel Disruption; Severe Weather-West Coast; Trump-Trade Tariffs; Trump Family Threat-Arrested; Russia-Putin; ISIS Threats; WV-Teachers Strike; Syrian Civil War; Universal Flu Vaccine Development; Equifax Security Breach; EPA Secretary-Spending Controversy; Nat Geo Photographer.

**NBC:** Russia-Putin; Putin Interview; Trump-Trade Tariffs; White House Staff Turmoil; Severe Weather; Wells Fargo-Whistle Blower; Opioid Epidemic; Online Security Tips; WV-Teachers Strike; Cooking Hardware Recall; Athlete-Family Reunion; NBA Player.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

Severe Weather – 8 minutes, 20 seconds

White House Staff Turmoil – 7 minutes, 30 seconds

Russia-Putin – 6 minutes, 55 seconds

Trump-Trade Tariffs – 5 minutes, 25 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Trump-Trade Tariffs; Wall Street News; Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Russia-Putin; Weinstein Company Merger.

**CBS:** Trump-Trade Tariffs; Russia-Putin; Severe Weather; Florida Shooting-Gun Control; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Severe Weather; Trump-Trade Tariffs; Suspicious Death Investigation.

**NPR:** Trump-Trade Tariffs; Florida Shooting-Gun Control; FBI-Russia NRA Ties; Pulse Night Club Widow Trial; Wall Street News.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Attends the funeral of the Reverend Billy Graham; hosts a roundtable with Republican National Committee; delivers remarks at the Republican National Committee Spring Donor Retreat Dinner.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Attends the funeral of the Reverend Billy Graham; speaks at America First Policies event.

**US Senate:** No schedule announced.

**US House:** No votes scheduled.

**Other:** 9:00 AM Hudson Institute discussion on 'Reuniting Ukraine through International Cooperation' – 'Reuniting Ukraine through International Cooperation: Options in Donbas' Hudson Institute discussion, on a new paper from Center on International Cooperation Non-Resident Fellow Richard Gowan, 'Can the United Nations Unite Ukraine?', which looks at the



various ways by which an eventual peacekeeping mission in Ukraine might come about and discusses options that might appeal to all parties in the conflict. Panelists include Gowan, U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Amb. Kurt Volker, and Baker McKenzie Senior Associate Lyndon Allin Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org>  
<https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

9:30 AM DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee meeting continues – Democratic National Committee Rules and Bylaws Committee meeting, day two, with agenda including a review of the Unity Reform Commission report and other party business Location: W Hotel Washington DC, 515 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.democrats.org/>  
<https://twitter.com/TheDemocrats>

Students For Liberty Liberty Con – Students For Liberty Liberty Con, with speakers including Republican Rep. Justin Amash, Forbes Media Editor-in-Chief Steve Forbes, ACLU President Susan Herman, Thurgood Marshall College Fund President and CEO Johnny Taylor, Whole Foods Co-founder and CEO John Mackey, Euro Pacific Capital President and CEO Peter Schiff, Foundation for Economic Education President Lawrence Reed, and former Estonian President Mart Laar Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road Northwest, Washington, DC [www.libertycon.com](http://www.libertycon.com)  
<https://twitter.com/sfliberty>

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

**Stephen Colbert:** “Now, I’m no economist, so I can’t say whether this tariff is good or bad, but I’m guessing bad because since Trump announced it, the Dow dropped more than 500 points. Yes, it sunk like an anchor made of solid, American steel.”

**Stephen Colbert:** “Rumor has it that the White House already has McMaster’s replacement picked out: Stephen Biegun, who currently serves as Vice President for the Ford Motor Company. So they may be losing a three-star general with a Purple Heart, but the new guy’s a winner of the JD Power Award for best mid-sized sedan three years in a row!”

**Stephen Colbert:** “Trump has been angry ever since Sessions recused himself from the Russia investigation, and today we learned that Robert Mueller is examining Trump’s apparent efforts to oust Sessions last July, which is shocking. There’s still someone in the White House who was there since last July?”

**James Corden:** “More details have emerged after White House

Communications Director Hope Hicks suddenly resigned yesterday. Apparently after Hope Hicks told Congress that she lied on his behalf, the President was so furious he berated her and demanded that Hicks explain how she could be so stupid. To which Hope Hicks replied, "You first."

**James Corden:** "According to a new article, First Lady Melania Trump was able to come to the United States in 2001 after she got her green card through a program designed for people specifically with, quote, 'extraordinary ability.' Now many people are questioning this. And I was going to say, she has put up with Donald Trump for 17 years. If that is not extraordinary, I don't know what is."

**Trevor Noah:** "Donald Trump attacked his own party for being scared of the NRA. I did not see that coming. That was the craziest twist since the end of 'The Usual Suspects.'"

**Trevor Noah:** "I guess yesterday some people on the left got a glimpse of why Trump's people love him so much. He wants to take action, and he's not going to let anything stop him. And people on the right got a glimpse of why people are terrified of Trump on the left. He wants to take action, and he's not going to let anything stop him."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "White House Communications Director Hope Hicks is leaving the White House. Hicks says she wants to move on to a job that's a little less stressful like heart surgeon or air traffic controller. Actually, Hicks said that she resigned to pursue other opportunities. Pretty tough job market out there. She had to compete against all those other unemployed Trump communications directors."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Meanwhile, the last communications director, Anthony Scaramucci, says that morale at the White House is terrible. Seriously, he was there for 10 days. He's like a guy who spends a semester in England, comes back with a British accent."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "I read that Trump actually keeps a list of anyone who has ever criticized him. Even has a name for that list: the US Census."

**Seth Meyers:** "President Trump is planning to meet next week with members of the video game industry as part of the discussion over school

safety. He's also very interested in taking a look at Mario's immigration papers."

**Seth Meyers:** [Referring to President Trump's comments on gun safety yesterday] "Republicans got their dream President, and now he's just blurting out their worst nightmares. We're like a week away from Trump driving up to the White House in a Prius blasting the Hamilton soundtrack and wearing a t-shirt that says #Resist."

**Conan O'Brien:** "Oprah said she asked God for a sign on whether or not she should run for President, but she hasn't had a sign yet. Yeah, and then someone pointed out Trump being President is the sign."

**Jordan Klepper:** "Wait, what? Trump take guns? But Obama take guns! So Obama build wall?"

**Jordan Klepper:** "Conservatives are not afraid of the NRA. That's ridiculous. I know that I'm not at all afraid of the NRA just because they're a multi-million-dollar lobbying machine with the ability to totally annihilate anyone who deviates from their message for even a second. No way."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-03-02T14:45:17-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Boy Scouts  
**Received:** 2018-03-02T14:46:53-05:00  
Boy Scout Eagle Award.docx

(b)(6)

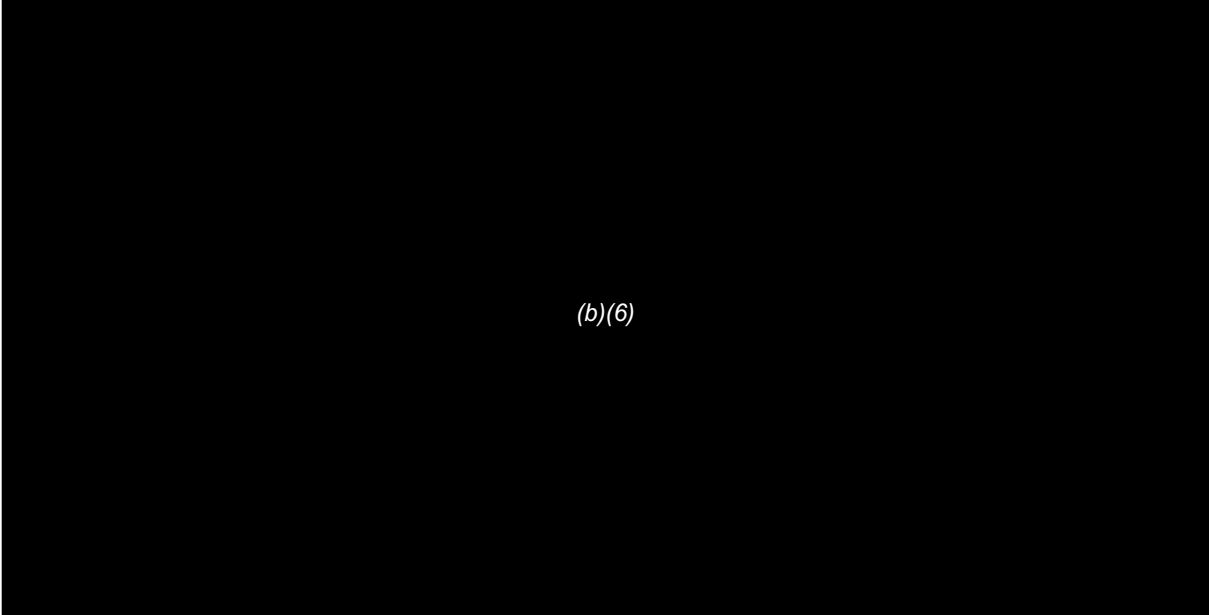
**To:** Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-03-02T14:56:23-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fw: Privileged & Confidential - (b)(6)  
**Received:** 2018-03-02T14:58:18-05:00

(b)(6) pdf  
(b)(6) pdf

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** Ryan Zinke <(b)(6)>; Lolita Zinke <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 5:33 PM  
**Subject:** Privileged & Confidential (b)(6)

\*\*\*Privileged & Confidential\*\*\*



[Biography](#) | [Website](#) | [vCard](#) | [Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Blog](#)

---

**From:** Ryan Zinke [mailto:(b)(6)]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 6:08 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: scanned documents (24 pgs x 2)

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Lolita Zinke [REDACTED] (b)(6) >  
Date: 02/16/2018 17:42 (GMT-05:00)  
To: [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
Subject: Fwd: scanned documents (24 pgs x 2)  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "staff2342@theupsstore.com" <staff2342@theupsstore.com>  
**Date:** February 15, 2018 at 3:48:35 PM PST  
**To:** "[REDACTED] (b)(6)" [REDACTED] (b)(6) >  
**Subject:** scanned documents (24 pgs x 2)

***Please see attachment,***

***Thank you***

**The UPS Store**  
**315 Meigs Road, Suite A**  
**Santa Barbara CA 93109**  
**805.962.8874**  
**805.962.0824 Fax**

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This is a transmission from The UPS Store and may contain privileged and confidential information. It, and any attachments, are intended only for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this communication and its attachments is strictly prohibited by applicable state and federal law. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message and attachments.

Store Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 AM - 6:30 PM, Sat 10:00 - 4:00, Sun - closed

\*\*\*\*\*  
This message is a PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL communication. This message and all attachments are a private communication sent by a law firm and may be confidential or protected by privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the information contained in or attached to this message is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender of the delivery error by replying to this message, and then delete it from your system. Thank you.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Please visit <http://www.mwe.com/> for more information about our Firm.

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Ryan Zinke [REDACTED] (b)(6); Lolita Zinke [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Renner, Elinor  
**Sent:** 2018-03-02T15:58:17-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Privileged & Confidential - [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Received:** 2018-03-02T15:59:05-05:00  
[RZ Signed Form.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

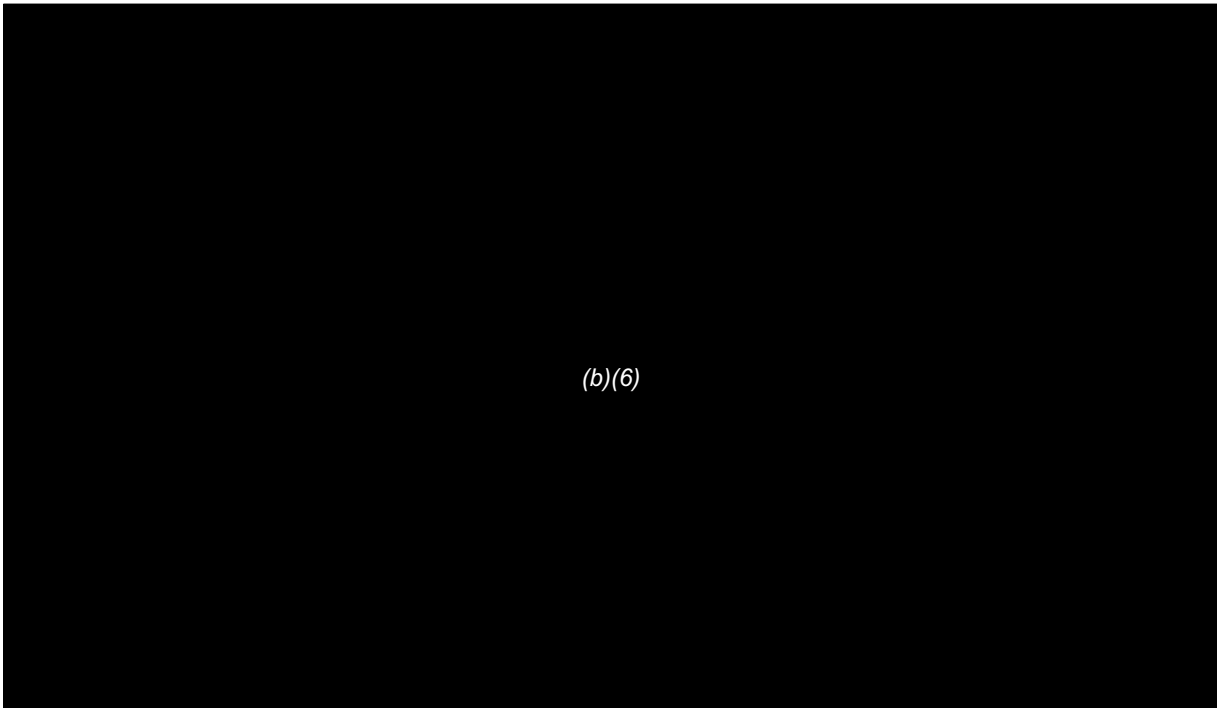
Attached is the signed form from Ryan Zinke.

Sincerely,  
Elinor

On Fri, Mar 2, 2018 at 2:56 PM, Ryan Zinke <[REDACTED] (b)(6)> wrote:

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**To:** Ryan Zinke <[REDACTED] (b)(6)>; Lolita Zinke <[REDACTED] (b)(6)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6); "Ryan, Stephen" <[SRyan@mwe.com](mailto:SRyan@mwe.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 5:33 PM  
**Subject:** Privileged & Confidential - [REDACTED] (b)(6)



(b)(6)

---

**From:** Ryan Zinke [mailto: (b)(6)]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 6:08 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: scanned documents (24 pgs x 2)

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Lolita Zinke <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** 02/16/2018 17:42 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: scanned documents (24 pgs x 2)  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "staff2342@theupsstore.com" <staff2342@theupsstore.com>  
**Date:** February 15, 2018 at 3:48:35 PM PST  
**To:** "(b)(6)" <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** scanned documents (24 pgs x 2)

***Please see attachment,***

***Thank you***

**The UPS Store**  
**315 Meigs Road, Suite A**  
**Santa Barbara CA 93109**  
**805.962.8874**  
**805.962.0824 Fax**

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This is a transmission from The UPS Store and may contain privileged and confidential information. It, and any attachments, are intended only for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this communication and its attachments is strictly prohibited by applicable state and federal law. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message and attachments.

Store Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 AM - 6:30 PM, Sat 10:00 - 4:00, Sun - closed

\*\*\*\*\*

This message is a PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL communication. This message and all attachments are a private communication sent by a law firm and may be confidential or protected by privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the information contained in or attached to this message is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender of the delivery error by replying to this message, and then delete it from your system. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please visit <http://www.mwe.com/> for more information about our Firm.

--

Elinor Renner  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-6087

(b)(6)

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-05T06:59:45-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 5, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-05T06:59:50-05:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 5, 2018 at 5:01:40 AM CST  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 5, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018 6:00 AM EST**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- New York Times: Department Of Interior Documents Show Original Focus On Oil Exploration In National Monument Land.
- Associated Press: US Interior Boss Defers Contested Oil And Gas Lease Sale.
- Houston Chronicle: As CERAWEEK Kicks Off, Energy Industry Focuses On Technology, Innovation.
- NPR: In Pa., Zinke Unveils Federal Government's \$55M Toward State's Abandoned Mine Cleanup Efforts.
- Platts: Trump Administration Weighs Plan To Lower Offshore Oil And Gas Royalty Rates.
- The Hill: Coal Industry Mired In Decline Despite Trump Pledges.
- The Hill: Greens Launch Ads Against Republicans Who Voted For Drilling In Arctic Refuge.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Along California-Oregon Border, Debate Over Protected Lands Is Clash Of Values.
- Helena (MT) Independent Record: Daines, Tester Present Plan To Spend \$80M A Year On Montana's Rural Water Projects.
- Associated Press: Questions Surround Trump's 1st Wall Contract.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- FBI: Spike In Pine Ridge Reservation Homicides Tied To Meth.
- Family Rails Against Bureau Of Indian Affairs.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Prison Program To Rehab Sage Grouse Habitat Faces Uncertain Future.

- Associated Press: Feral Cattle A Nuisance In A California National Monument.
- Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun: Joshua Tree Cries Foul As Trump Targets California Desert For Energy.
- Associated Press: Gianforte Proposes To Release Montana Wilderness Study Areas.

#### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Trump Drilling Plan Faces Backlash.

#### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- AZ Water Managers Disagree On Ways To Avoid Colorado River Shortage.

#### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Associated Press: Groups, US Reach Settlement On Predator-Killing Poisons.
- Associated Press: Judge Gives Group 90 Days To Save Historic Arkansas Bridge.

#### **National Park Service**

- Skift: U.S. National Parks Still Aren't Sure How To Deal With Overtourism.
- Associated Press: DC Gun Control March Bumped From Site For Talent Show.
- Associated Press: Peak Bloom For DC's Famed Cherry Trees Is Coming Early.
- Missoulian (MT): No Food, Lodging At Glacier's Sperry Complex This Summer.
- Arizona Daily Sun: Off-road Vehicle Access Expands In Glen Canyon Under New Proposal.
- Denver Post: Rocky Mountain National Park Will Open 2-mile Stretch Of Lakeside Trail To Mountain Bikes.
- Associated Press: Yellowstone National Park Preparing Roads For Spring.
- Hawley (PA) News Eagle: NPS Will Close River Road To Protect Breeding Amphibians.
- Beckley (WV) Register-Herald: NPS To Hold Meeting On Climbing Regulations.

#### **Insular And International Affairs**

- President Trump OKs Disaster Declaration In American Samoa.

#### **US Geological Survey**

- Fox News: 1.5M 'Rare Penguins' Discovered In Antarctica.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- Sec. Zinke Putting Our Special Places At Risk.
- Desert Lands Mark Zinke Anniversary With Plenty Of Uncertainty.
- What The Most Endangered Grizzlies In The Lower 48 Don't Need: A National Hiking Trail Through Their Territory.
- Our Opinion: Offshore Drilling Not Worth The Risk.
- Where's The Outrage Over Cutting Oil And Gas Royalty Rates.
- Additional Reading.

#### **Top National News**

- Associated Press: Media Analyses: Despite Outcry, Administration To Proceed On Tariffs.
- Washington Post: Trump Threatens To Impose Tax On European Cars If EU Retaliates Over Steel, Aluminum Tariffs.
- New York Times: Trump Asserts Trade Wars Are "Good" And Insists They Are

"Easy To Win."

- Washington Post: After Meeting With NRA, White House Says Trump Is Not Yet Decided On What Gun Control Measures He Supports.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Donald Trump Sure Has A Problem With Democracy."
- Washington Post.
  - "Gratuitous Cruelty By Homeland Security: Separating A 7-Year-Old From Her Mother."
  - "The UN Human Rights Commissioner Says Shame Is In Retreat. He's Right."
  - "Democracy Is Dying In Cambodia. Facebook Should Make Sure It Doesn't Help Kill It."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "The Qualcomm Question."
  - "Steel Tariffs Without Jobs."
  - "The Italian Indecision."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Department Of Interior Documents Show Original Focus On Oil Exploration In National Monument Land.**

The [New York Times](#) (3/2, Lipton, Friedman) reports that internal agency documents show the Department of Interior "was focused on the potential for oil and gas exploration at" the protected Bears Ears National Monument in Utah "even before President Trump opened his high-profile review" of the lands last spring. The documents show that Sen. Orrin Hatch "asked a senior Interior Department official" in March 2017 "to consider reduced boundaries for Bears Ears National Monument...to remove land that contained oil and natural gas deposits that had been set aside to help fund area public schools," and provided a map of Bears Ears which "was incorporated almost exactly into the much larger reductions President Trump announced in December." The documents were published by the [New York Times](#) (3/2).

The [AP](#) (3/2) reports that "agency spokeswoman Heather Swift said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke considered the viewpoints of 'members of Congress, governors, state and tribal leaders, and the public' before recommending reductions at the Utah monuments." Swift "said he also heard from the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, which is responsible for education funding that comes in part from the sale



of resources from state lands." Also, "Hatch's office said Friday that the Republican lawmaker was 'grateful' for the release of the emails because they make clear that his request for changes to the monument were focused on school funding."

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/2, Maffly) reports that however, "for a leader of Utah Diné Bikéyah, one of the tribal groups that advocated for Bears Ears, release of the emails was confirmation of hypocrisy on behalf of political leaders." Willie Grayeyes, the group's board chairman for Utah Diné Bikéyah, said, "As we can see from these letters, the reassurances from Utah politicians do not match their actions." He asked, "Why are human lives and pristine landscapes not honored as respected by Utah leaders? What will it take for them to hear our voice?"

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/2, Delk) and [MSNBC](#) (3/2).

### **US Interior Boss Defers Contested Oil And Gas Lease Sale.**

The [AP](#) (3/2, Bryan) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "putting the brakes on an upcoming oil and gas lease sale after hearing concerns from American Indian tribal leaders and others about potential effects on numerous cultural sites that dot the northwestern corner of New Mexico." The move, described as a "surprise" by the AP, was "welcomed Friday by environmental groups and others who had organized around a campaign to flood the Bureau of Land Management with an unprecedented number of protests against the sale." Zinke "told the Albuquerque Journal in an interview Thursday in Washington that the agency would halt the sale of 25 parcels, citing the concerns about cultural impact." On Friday, Zinke explained that "he wants the agency to complete an ongoing analysis of nearly 5,500 culture sites in the proposed leasing area." Zinke said in a statement, "I've always said there are places where it is appropriate to develop and where it's not. This area certainly deserves more study."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (3/2, Eilperin), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (3/2, Moses), the [Alamosa \(CO\) Valley Courier](#) (3/4), [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (3/3, Stiny), and the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/2, Thompson).

### **As CERAWeek Kicks Off, Energy Industry Focuses On Technology, Innovation.**

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/2, Blunt) reports that Interior Ryan Zinke is among this year's headliners at this week's CERAWeek conference in Houston. Likely topics for discussion at the conference include the US shale boom, the OPEC production cut agreement, and how oil field operations are being increasingly transformed with the advent of digital technology.

### **In Pa., Zinke Unveils Federal Government's \$55M Toward State's Abandoned Mine Cleanup Efforts.**

[NPR](#) (3/2, Frazier) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke went to

Western Pennsylvania "to tout the federal government's abandoned mine cleanup program." Zinke visited East Bethlehem Township, Washington County, "to announce \$300 million in federal funds for abandoned mine lands throughout the country." The article notes that "of the \$300 million in abandoned mine funding, Pennsylvania's share will be \$55 million, second only to Wyoming's, at \$91 million."

### **Trump Administration Weighs Plan To Lower Offshore Oil And Gas Royalty Rates.**

Platts (3/2, Scheid) reports the Trump administration is reviewing "an industry-backed recommendation to cut royalty rates for all leases in federal waters by one-third, a proposal aimed at boosting offshore oil and natural gas production." The proposal, which was "unanimously approved by the Department of Interior's Royalty Policy Committee on Wednesday," calls to reduce "rates for offshore oil and gas leases in US waters...from 18.75% to 12.5%." National Ocean Industries Association spokesperson Nicolette Nye said, "As companies determine where to spend their limited capital money for exploration, the 12.5% rate may be the tipping point for deciding whether to invest in US waters." Executive Director of the Center for Western Priorities Jennifer Rokala criticized the recommendation and said, "Zinke has stacked the deck with energy companies and asked them if they should pay less to extract oil, gas, and coal from our public lands and waters. ... It's like asking kindergarteners if they want birthday cake for dinner. You know the answer you'll get." The Houma (LA) Courier (3/3, Magill) reports supporters of the recommendation believe the reduced royalty rate "could reinvigorate an offshore oilfield that has shed thousands of jobs amid a three-and-a-half-year bust," while opponents believe "the measure amounts to a giveaway that benefits oil companies at the expense of U.S. taxpayers."

### **Coal Industry Mired In Decline Despite Trump Pledges.**

The Hill (3/4, Wilson) reports President Trump "has moved aggressively in his first year in office to roll back regulations he says have harmed America's coal miners" but according to the Energy Information Agency "Americans will be less dependent on coal, that coal production will fall, and that coal capacity in the nation's power plants is likely to decline in coming years." The Hill adds "the war on coal, in short, is over. And coal lost." Experts contend that coal regulations "may have hastened the demise of a once-dominant industry. But the decline started with market forces far more powerful than any presidential administration, including changing demands and the low cost of natural gas."

### **Greens Launch Ads Against Republicans Who Voted For Drilling In Arctic Refuge.**

The Hill (3/2, Cama) reports the National Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) campaign arm on Friday "launched a six-figure advertising

campaign" against Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick, Ryan Costello, Patrick Meehan, and Erik Paulson over their vote "to permit oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)" as part of "the controversial GOP tax overhaul last year, which has a provision that authorizes it."

### **Along California-Oregon Border, Debate Over Protected Lands Is Clash Of Values.**

The San Francisco Chronicle (3/4, Alexander) reports that the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is "at the heart of a nationwide debate over the management of America's public lands," following President Trump's recent decision to shrink two monuments in Utah. The Trump Administration has "recommended more logging and cattle grazing." But "all four senators from California and Oregon, as well as many in the state legislatures, are lining up with conservation groups to protest."

### **Daines, Tester Present Plan To Spend \$80M A Year On Montana's Rural Water Projects.**

The Helena (MT) Independent Record (3/2, Lutey) reports that Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines "have put forth a 20-year plan to spend \$80 million a year on Montana rural water projects, most of which have been funded a few million dollars at a time since first being endorsed by Congress in 2000." The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Water and Power "held a hearing on the Montana bill Wednesday, during which the Department of Interior made its case for funding rural water projects." Alan Mikkelsen, senior adviser to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on water and western resources, "said the Interior also supported firming up American Indian tribal water rights and compensating tribes for land lost to reservoirs."

### **Questions Surround Trump's 1st Wall Contract.**

The AP (3/2, Beck) reports that Nebraska startup SWF Constructors, which was "awarded the first border wall construction project" under President Trump, "is the offshoot of a construction firm that was sued repeatedly for failing to pay subcontractors and accused in a 2016 government audit of shady billing practices." The AP says "it remains unclear why SWF was listed" on the wall contract bid rather than its New York-based owner Edgewood, but legal experts suspect it may reflect "an attempt to dodge scrutiny of past legal problems."

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

#### **FBI: Spike In Pine Ridge Reservation Homicides Tied To Meth.**

The AP (3/4) reports the FBI says that "An increased prevalence of meth at South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation led to an unusual number of homicides in 2016," in the AP's words. FBI Assistant Special in Charge Robert Perry said, "We wanted to understand, 'Is there something we're

missing?’ Is there a trend here that we haven’t identified that we could affect?’ The answer really is we didn’t find anything other than the drug use.” The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (3/4, Tan) reports, “Perry said the violent deaths tapered off in 2017 once the Pine Ridge meth trade dynamics got sorted out.”

### **Family Rails Against Bureau Of Indian Affairs.**

The [Daily Mail](#) (3/2) reports that “an investigation into the whereabouts of missing 21-year-old woman from Montana has been turned over to the FBI.” Ashley Loring Heavyrunner “vanished from Montana’s Blackfeet Reservation in June of 2017 and has not been heard from since.” The investigation was “initially opened and led by the Bureau of Indian Affairs,” but “after more than nine months without success, the department turned their investigation over to the federal agency.”

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Prison Program To Rehab Sage Grouse Habitat Faces Uncertain Future.**

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (3/2, Plaven) reports that Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley are calling for the Interior Department “to continue funding an innovative prison work program designed to rehabilitate fire-scorched rangeland and restore habitat for sage grouse across the West.” The senators “stressed the importance” of the Sagebrush in Prisons Project in a letter sent Feb. 15 to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The project “faces an uncertain future after a funding agreement for roughly \$500,000 with the BLM expired last September.”

### **Feral Cattle A Nuisance In A California National Monument.**

The [AP](#) (3/4) reports that feral cattle in the Sand to Snow National Monument have “become a nuisance to hikers and local vegetation.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/2, Sahagun) reports meanwhile, “a pack of pit bulls has been killing and eating wild cattle.” According to the article, “the conflicts have become a local crisis not just because of the wild cattle and dogs, but also because the number of visitors and hikers in the Mojave Preserve and Sand to Snow National Monument has increased dramatically since it received federal designation in 2016, up from 90,000 to 148,000 last year.” The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, “which co-manage the monument’s 101,000 acres as wilderness, said they plan in March to dispatch a team of federal land managers, biologists and representatives of the nearby Morongo Band of Mission Indians reservation to come up with a strategy and funds to eliminate the unbranded cattle and collarless dogs.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Newsweek](#) (3/3, Delzo).

### **Joshua Tree Cries Foul As Trump Targets California Desert For Energy.**

The Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (3/2, Roth) reports that nearly 200 people attended a public meeting in the town of Joshua Tree on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan last Thursday. Trump Administration officials “say they’re looking for ways to open more...lands not only to renewable energy projects, but also to mining, grazing, off-roading and broadband internet infrastructure to serve rural communities.” According to the article, “most of the people who attended Thursday’s meeting are adamantly opposed to any changes to the desert plan — at least under the Trump administration.”

### **Gianforte Proposes To Release Montana Wilderness Study Areas.**

The AP (3/4) reports that Rep. Greg Gianforte has “drafted two bills proposing to release almost 690,000 acres (279,000 hectares) of wilderness study areas in Montana.” One bill “proposes to release 449,500 acres (182,000 hectares) of wilderness study areas all on national forest lands.” The other would “release an additional 240,000 acres (97,000 hectares) of Bureau of Land Management wilderness.”

Also reporting are the Helena (MT) Independent Record (3/3, French), and the Missoula Current (MT) (3/2, Kidston).

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **Trump Drilling Plan Faces Backlash.**

The Hill (3/4, Cama) reports, “The oil industry has been put on the defensive in the fight over the Trump administration’s plan to expand offshore drilling.” According to the Hill, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s decision to consider oil and natural gas drilling nearly everywhere along the nation’s coasts” is facing a “fierce and bipartisan” backlash. However, “the oil industry has also been active, drawing upon military veterans, grass-roots efforts and web advertising to push the drilling expansion.” The American Petroleum Institute has been actively “meeting with decisionmakers and using its existing grass-roots campaigns like Energy Nation and Energy Citizens.” API Upstream director Erik Milito said, “If we’re going to truly try to embrace American energy security, it’s essential for us to keep as many options on the table as possible, so we can at least find out what kind of resources might be out there. That’s all we’re talking about at this point.” According to the Hill, “Milito said much of the conversation from API centers on the argument that it’s in the country’s best interest to produce more oil and gas domestically instead of relying on imports.”

Brunswick (GA) News (3/3, Wolfe) reported on a BOEM public hearing for Georgians on offshore drilling was attended by both environmentalists and “a number of industry advocates,” including Georgia Energy Council executive director Hunter Hopkins – who “said he spent around an hour and a half between the stations and talking with BOEM staff and attendees, and said he felt the people from BOEM knew of what they spoke.”

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

### **AZ Water Managers Disagree On Ways To Avoid Colorado River Shortage.**

The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/2, Loomis) reports that "Arizona officials are calling for new conservation measures on the Colorado River that would protect water levels in Lake Mead from the effects of a relentless drought across the Southwest." Gov. Doug Ducey's administration "wants legislative authority to allow water users to skip delivery of some of their allocation this year to prevent shortages in future years." However, the Central Arizona Project has "opposed the idea, preferring to stick with existing programs."

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

#### **Groups, US Reach Settlement On Predator-Killing Poisons.**

The [AP](#) (3/2, Ridler) reports that federal officials have "agreed to complete a study on how two predator-killing poisons could be affecting federally protected species as part of the settlement of a lawsuit filed by environmental and animal-welfare groups." The agreement filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Montana "requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete consultations with the Environmental Protection Agency by the end of 2021 on the two poisons used by federal workers on rural Western lands to protect livestock." According to the article, "the Center for Biological Diversity and the other groups in the lawsuit filed last year in Montana say Fish and Wildlife is violating the Endangered Species Act by not analyzing with the EPA how sodium cyanide and Compound 1080 could harm federally protected species including grizzly bears and Canada lynx."

#### **Judge Gives Group 90 Days To Save Historic Arkansas Bridge.**

The [AP](#) (3/4) reports that "an Arkansas judge has given supporters of the old White River bridge in Clarendon 90 days to find a way to prevent the 87-year-old span from being demolished." Pulaski County Circuit Judge Chris Piazza "says he will dismiss a lawsuit to block the bridge's destruction if there is no deal to keep the bridge intact." The [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (3/4, Lynch) reports that "the old bridge and its replacement are both in the wildlife sanctuaries on the White and Cache rivers that are overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

### **National Park Service**

---

#### **U.S. National Parks Still Aren't Sure How To Deal With Overtourism.**

[Skift](#) (3/2, Peltier) reports that "many U.S. National Park Service officials have publicly pointed to the negative impact of overtourism during the past year, and they are considering reservation systems for some parks and other measures to address visitor growth." However, such systems "aren't imminent, said Donny Leadbetter, tourism program manager for the U.S. National Park Service." Leadbetter said, "The reservation systems are

probably not happening this year, they're at least a year or more away. We have online portals where we collect comments on plans and have community meetings. There are macro constraints that are out of the control of the travel industry."

### **DC Gun Control March Bumped From Site For Talent Show.**

The AP (3/2) reports that "a DC gun control rally later this month can't be held at the National Mall because the space was already reserved for a talent show." National Park Service spokesman Mike Litterst said the "March For Our Lives" organizers "applied for a space that was already taken, forcing them to search for another site." The Huffington Post (3/2, Papenfuss) reports that organizers are "now seeking a permit to use Pennsylvania Avenue on a route that would take them from the Capitol to Trump International Hotel."

### **Peak Bloom For DC's Famed Cherry Trees Is Coming Early.**

The AP (3/2) reports that the National Park Service announced Thursday the projected peak date for Washington's cherry blossoms will be March 17 to March 20. Park Service spokesman Mike Litterst "says April 4 is the historical average date for peak bloom, which is the day when 70 percent of the blossoms are open in trees around the Tidal Basin." This year's National Cherry Blossom Festival will run from March 20 to April 15.

### **No Food, Lodging At Glacier's Sperry Complex This Summer.**

The Missoulian (MT) (3/4, Byron) reports that "dead and dying trees from the 2017 Sprague fire in Glacier National Park need to be cleared out" before the Sperry Chalet area can be opened to the public. Lauren Alley, a spokesperson for Glacier National Park, "said they'll start clearing trees from the 6-mile trail to the Sperry Chalet complex as soon as the snow melts." Alley said, "Snyder and Sperry backcountry campgrounds are targeted for opening in August. Lincoln backcountry campground may open in September. Rehabilitation is needed at those campgrounds following the fire."

### **Off-road Vehicle Access Expands In Glen Canyon Under New Proposal.**

The Arizona Daily Sun (3/3, Cowan) reports that "off-road vehicle users would have more legal access to areas around Lake Powell but could also be required to purchase a permit and abide by new seasonal beach closures under a set of regulations being considered at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area." According to Glen Canyon superintendent William Shott, "the changes could mean new permit costs for off-road vehicle, or ORV, users and an increase in ORV traffic and tourism opportunities in the national recreation area." Shott said, "We're seeing a trend at Glen Canyon to where boating activity has flatlined and actually declined by 10 percent but visitation is booming and the majority of visitor

use is land-based. This is giving more folks more opportunities that are managed by specific purpose.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (3/3).

### **Rocky Mountain National Park Will Open 2-mile Stretch Of Lakeside Trail To Mountain Bikes.**

The [Denver Post](#) (3/2, Blevins) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park will “allow mountain bikes on a 2-mile stretch of lakeside trail in Grand County.” The move is “about 18 years in the making.” Cycling advocates are “heralding the first embrace of mountain biking in Rocky Mountain National Park — and a rare approval for mountain biking in any national park — as a step toward acknowledging the importance of all forms of cycling.”

### **Yellowstone National Park Preparing Roads For Spring.**

The [AP](#) (3/3) reports that crews in Yellowstone National Park are “planning to close roads to oversnow travel as they prepare for the spring.” Park officials “say the road between Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris will be the first to close Sunday, and the remaining roads will close to oversnow travel by March 15.”

### **NPS Will Close River Road To Protect Breeding Amphibians.**

The [Hawley \(PA\) News Eagle](#) (3/1) reports that “motorists can expect River Road within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to be closed on several evenings over the next few weeks to protect breeding amphibians.” Each year, the National Park Service “take steps to protect migrating amphibians by closing River Road in Middle Smithfield Township between park headquarters and Hialeah Picnic Area on several mild, rainy nights from March to mid-April.” This “allows vulnerable amphibians to crawl or hop from distances of a few hundred feet to sometimes more than a quarter mile, to moist breeding pools without the risk of being crushed by vehicle tires.”

### **NPS To Hold Meeting On Climbing Regulations.**

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (3/4, Jackson) reports that “after two years of meetings and planning, the National Park Service will put into motion a change to its climbing rules and regulations in the New River Gorge area.” The NPS will host a public education session on March 26.

## **Insular And International Affairs**

---

### **President Trump OKs Disaster Declaration In American Samoa.**

The [AP](#) (3/3) reports President Trump on Friday approved a disaster declaration for American Samoa, freeing up federal assistance to the US territory “in the wake of damage caused by tropical storm Gita last month.” The AP says the funds “can go toward grants for temporary housing, home



repairs, low-cost loans for property losses and other programs.”

## **US Geological Survey**

---

### **1.5M ‘Rare Penguins’ Discovered In Antarctica.**

Fox News (3/2) reports that “a thriving ‘hotspot’ of 1.5 million Adelie penguins, a species fast declining in parts of the world, has been discovered on remote islands off the Antarctic Peninsula.” Scientists found “that the first bird census of the Danger Islands unearthed over 750,000 Adelie breeding pairs, more than the rest of the area combined, the team reported in the journal *Scientific Reports*.” The article notes that “evidence of the previously-unknown penguin colony first emerged in data from the Landsat Earth-monitoring satellites run by NASA and the US Geological Survey.”

## **Opinion Pieces**

---

### **Sec. Zinke Putting Our Special Places At Risk.**

In an op-ed for the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (3/3, Adams), Stephanie Adams, the Yellowstone program manager for National Parks Conservation Association, acknowledges “a few bright spots” from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s first year in office, including support “for protecting Yellowstone and the Paradise Valley from two encroaching large-scale gold mines” and a focus on “the growing maintenance backlog at our national parks.” However, Adams writes, these “have largely been overshadowed by actions from his department, and the Trump administration, that can be summed up as a war on our national parks and public lands.” Adams urges Zinke to “draw inspiration” from President Theodore Roosevelt “in year two of his public service.”

### **Desert Lands Mark Zinke Anniversary With Plenty Of Uncertainty.**

In an op-ed for the Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun (3/4, Lamfrom), David Lamfrom, the California Desert Director for National Parks Conservation Association, claims that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “first year of actions would undermine over 40 years of progress and have placed over 6 million acres of desert lands in harm’s way.” Lamfrom takes issue with the inclusion of Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments in Zinke’s review of national monuments, the Cadiz Inc. water proposal, fee hikes at national parks, and possible changes to the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. He argues that “Zinke’s policies are out of step with realities on the ground and undercut genuine partnerships between communities and some of the local staff at National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.”

### **What The Most Endangered Grizzlies In The Lower 48 Don’t Need: A National Hiking Trail Through Their Territory.**

In an op-ed for the Los Angeles Times (3/4, Bass), Rick Bass, an author

and a founding board member of the Yaak Valley Forest Council, raises concerns with a proposed hiking path through the Yaak Valley, in northwestern Montana. The Pacific Northwest Trail would pass “dead-center through the heart of the territory occupied by the Yaak’s remnant population of grizzlies.” Bass hopes “to sit down with scientists and agency officials...and find a solution.”

### **Our Opinion: Offshore Drilling Not Worth The Risk.**

The Greensboro (NC) News & Record (3/3) picked up an editorial in which the Winston-Salem (NC) Journal (3/1) argued that BOEM representatives, who held the department’s “only public meeting in the state for commenting on the Trump administration’s plan to open our coast to offshore drilling” this week, were still greeted by “hundreds of environmentalists,” despite restrictions on public comments. The Journal reported the North Carolina Petroleum Council’s David McGowan said, “Gov. Cooper and other outspoken opponents of offshore energy development have said ‘not off our coast’ or essentially ‘not in my backyard.’ This is not a productive, responsible state energy strategy.” However, according to the Journal, “actually it is. What’s irresponsible is risking such a unique treasure as our coast for temporary financial gain from a relatively limited resource.” The Journal concludes that the “proposal has drawn opposition from 14 coastal-state governors, Democrats and Republicans alike, including Gov. Henry McMaster of South Carolina and Florida Gov. Rick Scott, who has been promised an exemption from the drilling plan... These people know what they’ve got and they know what we know — it’s not worth the risk.”

### **Where’s The Outrage Over Cutting Oil And Gas Royalty Rates.**

New Orleans Times-Picayune (3/4, Marshall) columnist Bob Marshall asserts, “next time a Louisiana politician – or anyone else working for the oil industry – says they support expanded offshore oil development because the royalties help pay for our coastal restoration projects, feel free to stick a big Pinocchio nose on them.” He questions why politicians who use royalties to justify their support for “President Donald Trump’s Drill-Everywhere-Now-Baby! Policy” have not expressed outrage at the Interior Department’s recent recommendation to lower royalty payments for offshore oil and gas drilling. Marshall warns, “You don’t need an Ivy League degree like Trump’s to understand increasing the number of wells, but reducing the royalties will end up being a big win for the oil companies, but likely a big zero for the coast. But it also will mean increased pollution and higher risk of a catastrophic disaster like the Deepwater Horizon.”

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Harmful Public Lands Bills In Congress.* Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (3/4, Neckels).
- *Editorial: A Toxic Solution To Westlands Lawsuit.* San Francisco

Chronicle (3/4).

- *Tap Fund For Coal Country Land, Water Restoration.* Scranton (PA) Times Tribune (3/4, HUGHES).
- *Guest Opinion: Paonia Reservoir Dramatic Example Of Widespread Water Infrastructure Needs.* Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (3/3, Holm).
- *Viewpoint: National Parks May Face Drastic Cuts.* Mount Desert (ME) Islander (3/2, Steele).
- *Guy W. Farmer: BLM Should Head West.* Nevada Appeal (3/3, Farmer).
- *Zimmerman: The Bureau Of Land Management Is Promoting A “Bad Neighbor” Policy For Public Lands.* Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/2, Zimmerman).
- *Making, Not Breaking, Sage-grouse Recovery.* Durango (CO) Herald (3/3, Laszlo).
- *Despite Progress, Water Problem Is Still Here.* Kingman (AZ) Daily Miner (3/4).
- *The Importance Of Roadless Areas.* Santa Fe New Mexican (3/3, Allison).
- *A Bit Of Missed News.* Idaho State Journal (3/4, Maughan).
- *Guest View: The Conservative Argument For The CSKT Compact.* Montana Standard (3/4, Swanson).
- *A Cabinet Full Of Corruption.* Boston Globe (3/2, Cohen).
- *White House & Trump Administration: Officials Spend Public Money.* National Review (3/2, Charen).

## Top National News

---

### Media Analyses: Despite Outcry, Administration To Proceed On Tariffs.

With trade advisor Peter Navarro and Commerce Secretary Ross making the rounds on the Sunday shows, most media reports remark on their forcefulness in defending the President’s decision to levy tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. Trump also reiterated his position on Twitter last night, writing, “We are on the losing side of almost all trade deals. Our friends and enemies have taken advantage of the US for many years. Our Steel and Aluminum industries are dead. Sorry, it’s time for a change! MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!” Media analyses also reflected what the AP (3/4, Freking, Miller) termed the blurred “lines of partisanship” on the trade issue, with “labor unions and liberal Democrats...in the unusual position of applauding Trump...while Republicans and an array of business groups are warning of dire economic and political consequences if he goes ahead with the tariffs.”

The Los Angeles Times (3/4, King) reports that yesterday, “officials signaled...that...Trump is determined to impose punishing tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, brushing aside an outcry from foreign allies, US manufacturers, Republican lawmakers and other presidential advisors.”

The AP (3/4, Freking, Miller) also says the Administration "appears unbowed by broad domestic and international criticism," and Bloomberg News (3/4, Weiss, Niquette, Miller) that it "shows scant sign of watering down its plan to impose stiff tariffs," and the Wall Street Journal (3/4, Leubsdorf, Ballhaus) runs a similar analysis. The  CBS Weekend News (3/4, story 2, 1:15, Jiang), meanwhile, showed Ross saying, "The President has announced that this will happen this week. I have no reason to think otherwise."

However, the Washington Post (3/4, Gearan, Demirjian) finds Ross and Navarro "sent mixed signals" and left "room for an unpredictable president to change his mind." To the Post, "Ross said that although he does not expect Trump to change his mind, he does not rule it out." On NBC's Meet the Press, Ross said of Trump, "Whatever his final decision is, is what will happen. ... What he has said he has said; if he says something different, it'll be something different." The New York Times (3/4, Swanson), in a story titled "Trump Advisers Fervently Defend Tariffs (Unless They Change, That Is)," takes a similar line, reporting that "the White House continued to sow uncertainty...about the stiff tariffs."

NBC Nightly News (3/4, lead story, 2:45, Snow) also reported that Ross said he had "not seen any signs the President would back away or carve out certain exceptions for friendly nations, but he also cautioned that it's up to the President, and that the decision could come this week."

The Los Angeles Times (3/4, King) reports Navarro and Ross "each suggested that Trump was unlikely to exempt allied countries from the tariffs, despite national-security concerns raised by some of his own advisors about the move." On  ABC's This Week (3/4), for example, Ross defended the President's plan, saying that "economic security is national security," and said in regard to concerns from US allies, "We have unilaterally given away all kinds of concessions since the end of World War II. ... Concessions that were reasonable to make to Germany in 1945 or China in 1945 don't make sense any more" as "those are now very mature, big, strong economies."

Moreover, USA Today (3/4, Korte, Jackson) reports, the officials "downplayed the impact of the president's planned steel and aluminum tariffs on American consumers Sunday, saying they amount to 'a fraction of a penny on a can of beer.'" USA Today Ross told NBC's Meet the Press, "Retaliation isn't going to change the price of a can of beer. It isn't going to change the price of a car. It's just not going to. It can't." Ross also told  NBC's Meet the Press (3/4, Todd) that "we have a big trade deficit with the rest of the world" as "our cumulative deficit equals the cumulative surplus of the rest of the world. ... They, therefore, have much more at risk in a trade war than we do." The Washington Examiner (3/4, Feldscher) notes "Ross said he thinks the 25 percent tariff on steel imports and 10 percent tax on aluminum imports will push other countries to the negotiating table for better trade deals." Said Ross, "They have a lot more to lose than we do because those hundreds of billions [of dollars] are in

their pockets, not ours.”

Reuters (3/4, Chiacu, Volcovici) also reports that Navarro “said countries will not be excluded from the tariffs because that would become a slippery slope, but there will be a mechanism for corporate exemptions in some cases.” Bloomberg News (3/4, Weiss, Niquette, Miller) notes Navarro told Fox News Sunday, “As soon as he starts exempting countries, he has to raise the tariff on everybody else. ... As soon as he exempts one country, his phone starts ringing with the heads of state of other countries.” Breitbart (3/4, Key) quotes Navarro as saying, “Difference between exemptions and country exclusions. They’ll be an exemption procedure for particular cases where we need to have exemptions so that business can move forward, but at this point in time, the no country exclusions.”

Politico (3/4, Palmer, Warmbrodt) says “Trump is imposing the tariffs as a result of a nine-month investigation that found that current volumes of steel and aluminum imports are a threat to national security because they undermine the long-term viability of both industries.” However, “most other nations see that as a thinly disguised excuse to take protectionist measures.” Navarro told  CBS’ Face The Nation (3/4, Brennan) that he is “surprised anyone was surprised by this” as “this goes back to April when the president directed the Secretary of Commerce to investigate what is severe just threat to our aluminum and steel industry.”

Navarro also told  Fox News Sunday (3/4, Wallace) that “Trump wants to...fulfill his campaign promises to the American people and the American workers,” and “is doing this because if he doesn’t...we will lose” the aluminum industry “very quickly and our steel industry very quickly thereafter. ... We’re down to five smelters.” Navarro said in regards to estimates of the tariffs’ effect on US consumers, “When you’re talking about these massive costs or whatever is in fact, it’s not” because “there are no downstream price effects on our industries that are significant.”

**Ross: Cohn “Certainly Not Going To Walk Out” Over Tariffs.** Politico (3/4, Warmbrodt) reports Ross also told ABC’s “This Week” that “top White House economic adviser Gary Cohn is not leaving the administration after failing to stop...Trump from imposing” the tariffs. Said Ross, “The president likes to hear every side of every argument. ... That way he’s sure he’s gotten all points of view. We’ve had lively discussion, but Gary Cohn, as far as I know, is certainly not going to walk out.”

**Navarro Denies Reports Of “Guerrilla Warfare” Leading Up To Trump’s Decision.** The Washington Examiner (3/4, Lim) reports that on Fox News Sunday, Navarro “ripped reports Sunday that senior Trump administration officials were complaining that he used ‘guerrilla warfare’ tactics in the West Wing to unduly influence...Trump’s economic policy, including lobbying for Trump’s hastily announced tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.” Said Navarro, “I would say that sitting here on a Sunday with you, that’s a bit of a cheap shot, that there’s no facts and evidence to support that. ... And if I’ve learned anything in the 14 months here in

Washington in the White House is that there's all sorts of malicious leaks that go in that try to hurt us."

Navarro, notes the New York Post (3/4, Schultz), also "accused the media...of hyping up a trade war and got a swift scolding from the show's anchor." Navarro said on Fox News, "It would be helpful if the media didn't have all these crazy headlines about trade wars." Anchor Chris Wallace "shot back in a heated interview that the media were just reporting on Trump's own tweet Friday."

***White House Meeting: Trump Called Cohn A "Globalist"; Cohn Thought Navarro And Ross Were "Lying."*** Axios (3/4, Swan) describes a contentious White House meeting on the tariffs, in which "Cohn and [former aide Rob] Porter argued on one side, and Navarro and Ross fought on the other." Cohn "tried to argue that these tariffs would ruin Trump's record-setting stock market streak and wipe away benefits of tax reform. But Trump kept saying Cohn was a 'globalist' while he himself was an economic nationalist." Cohn "later told associates he believed Navarro and Ross were lying to the president." Politico adds, "Asked about this, a Commerce spokesman retorted: 'The facts that form the basis for this decision are laid out in the two 232 reports that Secretary Ross submitted to the President. No one has refuted the facts in those reports.'"

***Brady, Graham, Kasich Among Critics Of Trump Decision.*** NBC Nightly News (3/4, lead story, 2:45, Snow) reported in its lead story that "heated responses is not just coming from overseas, but members of the President's own party are saying it's a risky move going against the globalism that Republicans advocated for decades and could actually cost more jobs than it creates." The CBS Weekend News (3/4, story 2, 1:15, Jiang) also said "Republicans are pleading with the President to pivot."

Reuters (3/4, Wroughton, Ljunggren) noted, for example, that reacting to Ross' comments, "Kevin Brady, chairman of the US House Ways and Means Committee, said on Sunday all fairly traded steel and aluminum, especially from Canada and Mexico, should be excluded from...Trump's proposed tariffs." Brady "was speaking on the sidelines of the latest round of NAFTA talks between the United States, Canada and Mexico where he said there had been progress in renegotiating the 24-year-old trade deal."

The Washington Times (3/4, Sherfinski) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham "said...Trump's recent move to impose new tariffs on steel and aluminum imports lets China 'off the hook.'" Graham told CBS' Face the Nation, "China wins when we fight with Europe. China wins when the American consumer has higher prices because of tariffs that don't affect Chinese behavior."

Gov. John Kasich, on CNN's State Of The Union (3/4, Tapper), expressed his disagreement with Trump's announcement, "First of all, I don't want to disrupt the bulk of things and have lots of people...having high prices or other people losing their job." He added that what Trump "ought to do, working with the Congress and outside group, we ought to

modernize the way in which we determine whether the trade agreements are being violated" but "just to turn around one day" and impose tariffs, "which the Department of Defense doesn't even agree to, doesn't make much sense."

In an editorial this morning, the Wall Street Journal (3/4) roundly dismisses the notion that Trump's tariffs will revive a steel industry which, according to the Journal, no longer exists as a significant segment of the US economy. Ross, on  Fox News Sunday Morning Futures (3/4, Bartiromo), was pressed on criticism of the President's plans from the Wall Street Journal editorial page. Said Ross, "Well, let's go through the points that they made. ... Europe has announced some retaliations in its own some \$3 billion worth of product" which "is a tiny fraction of 1%, so while it may be painful for those particular companies in the overall scheme of things, it doesn't mean very much of anything." Also, "in terms of the inflationary impact we're talking about a total of \$9 billion of tariffs" which is "about one-half of 1% of the economy, so this business that 'the sky is falling' is just silly."


Michael Bender of the Wall Street Journal said on  CNN Inside Politics (3/4), "We saw Trump's announcement was rejected by the markets," which "took a turn down after he made that announcement and the point there is that it's not the specifics of what the Secretary of Commerce is talking about, but the larger picture here. It's the further dismantling of the global compact that's been in place in recent decades and another indication that the US is more interested in dismantling it than helping put that back together."

Mary Katherine Ham of The Federalist, also on  CNN Inside Politics (3/4), said, "Let's talk about something the President actually cares about which is on the tax bill, the numbers on that have gone up 20 plus points because reality is on the side of the Republican argument, people are seeing this in their paychecks." Trump "is in danger of undercutting every single thing that he achieved with that one legislative victory with what is essentially a tax on a bunch of employers on a bunch of American workers."

***WSJournal Analysis: Tariffs Could Hurt Infrastructure Push.*** The Wall Street Journal (3/4, Harrison) reports that Trump's declaration that he will impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports could undermine his push to rebuild US infrastructure because the tariffs could increase the cost of the projects.


***Politico Analysis: Republicans Worry Tariffs Will Hurt Them In Midterms.*** Politico (3/4, Bade, Everett) reports "Trump's threatened trade war has opened a rift within the Republican Party that some lawmakers and strategists believe could undermine their effort to keep their majorities in Congress." While "Republicans plan to brag about the economy in midterm campaigns in hopes of countering Trump's unpopularity," the President's "suggestion...that he might slap penalties on European cars, in addition to the tariffs on aluminum and steel he already promised, could upend that

strategy completely, Republicans say." To Politico, "what might be good politics for Trump personally might not work for the entire party," particularly as the move is "allowing Democrats to hug Trump just when Republicans have been trying to position the opposing party as detrimental to Trump's economy. Vulnerable Democratic incumbents from the Rust Belt have rushed to praise Trump for taking action that could help industries in their states."

**Media Analyses: Chinese Reaction Could Hurt US Exporters, Upend Policy Toward North Korea.**  [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/4, story 2, 1:00, Frayer) reported "China warned they do not want a trade war, but also said it will not ignore impact of ...Trump's tariffs could have on its economy." A "senior official...said China would take necessary measures, which could mean trouble for US exporters in China – from soybeans to Boeing products to anything Apple manufactures. Also at risk, China's pressure to maintain North Korea," which "could wane if the US rhetoric becomes policy this week."

**British PM Expresses "Deep Concern" In Conversation With Trump.** [Bloomberg News](#) (3/4, Hutton) reports that the British government said yesterday Prime Minister Theresa May told Trump "the UK has 'deep concern' about the US plan to slap tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, and negotiated accords are better." The two "spoke Sunday by telephone, with May saying 'multilateral action was the only way to resolve the problem of global overcapacity in all parties' interests,' according to a spokesman for the prime minister." The [New York Post](#) (3/4, Schultz) notes "Downing Street released a readout of the call between the two leaders, but the White House has yet to provide its version of the conversation." The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/4, Barron-Lopez) and [The Hill](#) (3/4, Sanchez), among other news outlets, run similar reports this morning.

**Europeans Fear "Glut" Of Cheap Steel Imports Following US Move.** Under the headline "Europe Fears Return Of Steel Glut As US Imposes Tariffs," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/4, Turner) reports Europeans fear the US decision to impose tariffs could lead to a glut of cheap steel imports flooding their markets. Hans Jürgen Kerkhoff, president of the German Steel Federation, is quoted as saying, "Diverted trade flows threaten Europe with a new steel glut when as things are the EU market is far from tackling (its own) import crisis. ... If the EU doesn't act, our steel industry is going to be left footing the bill for American protectionism."

 [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/4, story 3, 0:40, Arouzi) reported that "France and Germany are rattled and loudly warning they will not sit idly by if import taxes are enacted." Trump "threatened a 25 percent tax on European cars if there's a retaliation," which "would be a big blow to German brands like Mercedes and BMW."

### **Trump Threatens To Impose Tax On European Cars If EU Retaliates Over Steel, Aluminum Tariffs.**

President Trump on Saturday threatened to tax European automakers if



the EU retaliates against the US for imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum. Media coverage, which includes nearly six minutes on the network newscasts, was also heavy in print and online. Reporting is generally negative toward Trump's remarks, which were characterized as escalating tensions and raising the likelihood of a trade war.

The Washington Post (3/3, Paletta, Dawsey) reports the President in a series of tweets "threatened to hammer European automotive companies with steep tariffs as his global trade war snowballed into a third day" after European leaders warned Friday that "his promised tariffs on aluminum and steel would trigger retaliation from numerous major U.S. trading partners." The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Mauldin, Ballhaus) reports Trump said, "If the E.U. wants to further increase their already massive tariffs and barriers on U.S. companies doing business there, we will simply apply a Tax on their Cars which freely pour into the U.S. They make it impossible for our cars (and more) to sell there. Big trade imbalance!" He separately tweeted, "The United States has an \$800 Billion Dollar Yearly Trade Deficit because of our 'very stupid' trade deals and policies. Our jobs and wealth are being given to other countries that have taken advantage of us for years. They laugh at what fools our leaders have been. No more!"

According to the New York Times (3/3, Cochrane), the tweets represent "the latest indication that Mr. Trump, despite pressure from foreign allies and American business leaders, is standing by his decision to impose a 25 percent tariff on steel imports and a 10 percent tariff on aluminum imports from all countries." USA Today (3/3, Stanglin) describes the tweets as "the first rumblings of a potential trade war" while Reuters (3/3, Shepardson, Stone) similarly says the President's tweet "suggested he is refusing to yield to U.S. business interests and foreign trading partners alarmed at the prospect of a trade war that rattled financial markets this week." Reuters adds that Trump also "criticized Europe in remarks at a fundraiser, according to video posted online Saturday, and suggested they would not increase tariffs." Reuters quotes Trump as stating: "The European Union: brutal. They've been brutal to us. ... They've banded together in order to beat the United States in trade."

☒ NBC Nightly News (3/3, story 6, 1:00, Diaz-Balart) correspondent Jeff Bennett said "language like that is little comfort to those in the President's own Administration and Republican leaders on Capitol Hill, who we're told are privately urging the President to reconsider given the potential blow to the economy." When asked "earlier this evening if he's concerned about launching a trade war," Bennett said, Trump "didn't respond." Those close to the President, however, "tell us he thinks the announcement is a political winner and he gets to make good on a key campaign promise."

In a front-page article, the Washington Post (3/3, A1, Mufson, Paletta) reports that while Trump "aimed his harshest rhetoric at an unlikely target – the closest U.S. allies," trade experts "say the president has exaggerated and oversimplified the trade issues with Europe."

***EU, Canada Threaten To Retaliate Against Trump's Tariff Proposals.*** ABC World News Tonight (3/3, story 6, 0:35, Vega) David Wright reported after President Trump "first proposed a new tariff on imported steel and aluminum, the EU and Canada said that they might have to respond with new tariffs of their own." NBC Nightly News (3/3, story 5, 1:55, Diaz-Balart) said the "message from overseas is clear: European nations are not going to quietly accept it." The backlash is "raising questions about the unintended consequences of the move," with Europe threatening to impose tariffs "on iconic American products like bourbon and blue jeans." Former USTR Michael Froman said European leaders are retaliating "against what they determine to be potentially sensitive sectors of the United States."

The CBS Weekend News (3/3, story 5, 2:10, Ninan) broadcast Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also warning, "We are impressing upon the American Administration the unacceptable nature of these proposals that are going to hurt them every bit as much as they will hurt us." Correspondent Weijia Jiang said Trump's proposal has also "sparked fears of a trade showdown with China." When asked what will prevent China and other US trading partners "from taking their business" outside the US, Alliance for American Manufacturing president Scott Paul responded: "There will be an adjustment as we rebalance this, but I think every other nation knows that they've been getting a good deal – in fact, I would call it a gift – from the United States, and now we expect reciprocity." Domestically, Jiang added, "A growing list of congressional Republicans are also publicly slamming the proposal."

***China Warns Tariffs Could Have "Huge Impact" On Global Trade.*** The New York Times (3/3, Bradsher) reports the President's tariff proposal "has drawn condemnation from the European Union, Canada and Brazil," but "the intended target of Mr. Trump's action, China, has been fairly cautious," in contrast. The Times says that while "China's commerce and foreign ministries have publicly criticized the decision, and the Commerce Ministry raised the possibility on Friday that China might retaliate," the country's remarks were "carefully calibrated to say that any retaliation would be based on the direct effects of the United States' actions on China's own interests." The AP (3/3, McDonald) reports Wang Hejun, the head of the Commerce Ministry's trade remedy and investigation bureau, said the tariffs would "seriously damage multilateral trade mechanisms represented by the World Trade Organization and will surely have huge impact on normal international trade order." Wang added, "If the final measures of the United States hurt Chinese interests, China will work with other affected countries in taking measures to safeguard its own rights and interests."

***NAFTA Negotiators Ignore Trump's Tariff Threats, Focus On Current Policy.*** Reuters (3/3, Graham, Garcia) reports that while "negotiations between the United States, Canada and Mexico to redraw the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) were clouded this week by Trump's plan to slap 25 percent tariffs on steel imports and claims that

trade wars are good," several participants in the talks "privately expressed frustration" with his remarks, but "said that Canadian, Mexican and the technical staff of U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer have remained focused on the task of overhauling the accord." A source close to the talks told Reuters that their approach is to "stick with the official positions of the government, and above all with our direct counterparts, USTR, the Commerce Department, and take serious decisions on that basis."

*Trump's Base, Republican Party Divided Over Tariff Proposal.* In a front-page article, the New York Times (3/3, A1, Kitroeff, Swanson) reports that the President's plans "to impose steep tariffs on imported steel and aluminum delighted some blue-collar industries he had championed," but "behemoth steel buyers like Boeing and General Motors weren't as pleased" and "the most obvious aluminum dependents – the brewing giants Anheuser-Busch and MillerCoors – warned about the risk of job losses." The Times adds that "as industrial America sorts out the tariffs' prospective impact, one thing is clear: The divide between the metal producers and their customers slices directly through Mr. Trump's blue-collar constituency."

The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Maher) reports the President's tariff proposal is popular with steel workers and labor leaders in Braddock, Pennsylvania, but the Los Angeles Times (3/3, Cosgrove) says "California steel manufacturers are concerned that tariffs...will drive up the price of their products, threatening their ability to compete with foreign and eastern U.S. steel makers and forcing them to cut local jobs." The Times highlights that "on the West Coast, steel manufacturers largely depend on imported steel from Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Australia" because "the cost of bringing those slabs from the eastern United States to the West Coast is five times more expensive than bringing them from other countries."

Ann Wilson, a senior executive at the US Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA), also told Reuters (3/3, Wroughton) on Friday that the organization's members are "very concerned" with Trump's tariff threats and said, "our industry was really pleased with what we accomplished with tax reform and the improvement in the economy, and a lot of that enthusiasm could all be for naught if we do something like this." Wilson added, "The smaller suppliers are the ones at risk because they can't pivot and they can't move their businesses. ... They may not be able to absorb this kind of cost. It's not as simple as saying we'll just make that specialty steel here."

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (3/3, Mauldin) reports US farmers are worried the tariffs could prompt China and other countries to retaliate against US exports of sorghum and other crops and livestock. The Journal states that Agriculture Secretary Perdue on Wednesday acknowledged, "There's reason for anxiety, there's reason to understand that we need to have efforts that make sure that agriculture's not harmed in a way that

would be hurtful in any kind of tariff negotiations or whatever we do on steel, aluminum or intellectual property.”

The AP (3/3, Mascaro) also concedes the tariff proposal “pits Trump’s populist promises to his voters against” the Republican Party’s “free trade orthodoxy.” According to the AP, Trump’s ability to take executive action on trade policy has “intensifie[d] the pressure on Republican lawmakers to change [the President’s] mind before he gives his final approval for the penalties as early as this coming week.”

***Icahn Reduced Stake In Crane Manufacturer By Nearly 1 Million Shares In February.*** The AP (3/3) reports Carl Icahn, a billionaire investor who served as an unpaid adviser to the President last year, sold “nearly 1 million shares” of crane manufacturer Manitowoc Co. last month for \$31.3 million. Bloomberg News (3/2, Deveau) said that while “Icahn remains Manitowoc’s fifth-largest holder with about 4.8 percent of the company’s common shares,” according to a recent regulatory filing, the stock “fell as much as 7 percent in New York trading Friday.”

***Krugman, Ip Warn Trade War To Hurt US Economy, Agenda.*** In his New York Times (3/3, Krugman) column, Paul Krugman examines “what would happen if Trump really did try to close the trade gap – it’s actually \$500 billion, not \$800 billion, but who’s counting – by imposing tariffs.” Krugman predicts the Federal Reserve “would raise rates sharply to head off inflationary pressures,” which “would squeeze interest-sensitive sectors: Trump’s friends in real estate would become very, very unhappy, as would anyone who is highly leveraged (hello, Jared [Kushner])” and “drive up the dollar, inflicting severe harm on U.S. export sectors. Greetings, farmers of Iowa!” Krugman concludes “add in the fact that other countries would retaliate – they’re already drawing up their target lists – and the fact that we’d be alienating key allies, and you have a truly terrible, dumb policy idea. Which makes it quite likely, as I see it, that Trump will indeed follow through.”

Wall Street Journal (3/2, Ip) chief economics commentator Greg Ip said that while tariffs on steel and aluminum are likely to have only a limited direct macroeconomic effect, the President’s proposal endangers his agenda and could make it more difficult to enact future pro-business policies.

### **Trump Asserts Trade Wars Are “Good” And Insists They Are “Easy To Win.”**

President Trump took to Twitter on Friday to defend his decision to impose tariffs on aluminum and steel in response to the mostly unfavorable media coverage of his announcement on Thursday. Reporting, which included just under two and a half minutes combined on the network newscasts, cast Trump as defiant amid criticism for a decision that was characterized as fulfilling a promise to his base and a defeat to the pro-trade leaders in his own party.

The New York Times (3/2, Swanson) reports the President “doubled

down" on his decision to approve "stiff tariffs on steel and aluminum imports" and Reuters (3/2, Heavey) says "Trump struck a defiant tone...after his plan to put tariffs on steel and aluminum imports triggered threats of retaliation from trading partners and a slide in stock markets." AFP (3/2, Gillison) similarly states that the President "remain[ed] defiant in the face of the global uproar sparked by his sudden announcement of steel and aluminum tariffs" while ABC World News Tonight (3/2, story 6, 0:20, Muir) said Trump is "not backing down on tariffs," even though the stock market is "reacting with high anxiety and despite criticism that America's trading partners could retaliate and do the same to us."

The Wall Street Journal (3/2, Schlesinger) reports Trump tweeted, "When a country (USA) is losing many billions of dollars on trade with virtually every country it does business with, trade wars are good, and easy to win. Example, when we are down \$100 billion with a certain country and they get cute, don't trade anymore-we win big. It's easy!" The President later continued, "We must protect our country and our workers. Our steel industry is in bad shape. IF YOU DON'T HAVE STEEL, YOU DON'T HAVE A COUNTRY!" He added, "When a country Taxes our products coming in at, say, 50%, and we Tax the same product coming into our country at ZERO, not fair or smart. We will soon be starting RECIPROCAL TAXES so that we will charge the same thing as they charge us. \$800 Billion Trade Deficit-have no choice!"

The Washington Post (3/2, Paletta) contends Trump's "threats...looked to escalate his new protectionist policies," as the President "vowed to impose trade restrictions on any country that he felt had an unfair trade relationship with the United States, following through on nationalist threats that many aides had spent more than one year trying to contain."

Meanwhile, the Washington Times (3/2, Miller) reports Trump is scheduled to "hold a campaign rally March 10 in Moon Township, Pennsylvania, visiting the heart of steel country after announcing plans for big tariffs on steel and aluminum imports." Michael S. Glassner, CEO of the Trump re-election campaign, said the President "is really looking forward to visiting the Pittsburgh area to highlight the benefits that his historic tax cuts are providing hardworking families across Pennsylvania and to celebrate our booming economy now that America is once again open for business."

However, an AP (3/2, Boak, Woodward) "Fact Check" declares that "in agitating for a trade war," Trump's "spoiling-for-a-fight" tweets ignore Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman's adage that "war is hell," which the AP asserts is an "observation can be apt for trade wars," as they "may create conditions for a shooting war." According to the AP, "history suggests that trade wars are not easy" and while levying tariffs "may help certain domestic manufacturers, [they] can come at a broad cost."

In a front-page article, the Washington Post (3/2, A1, Lynch) asserts "Ashtabula is the kind of place that...Trump, and his chief trade adviser

Robert E. Lighthizer, who grew up here, aim to help with" the tariffs, but while these communities "show why protectionism may be a political winner for the president, blocks of dilapidated clapboard houses signal broader economic woes that the administration's proposed trade measures do not address." The Post adds that Ashtabula and similar cities are unlikely to benefit from the tariffs and the New York Times (3/2, A1, Tankersley) warns in a front-page article that if a trade war occurs, "it will crimp economic growth, undermining the stimulative effects of Mr. Trump's deregulation push and his signature \$1.5 trillion tax cut."

The New York Times (3/2, A1, Swanson) in another front-page article cautions that "retaliation could hit hardest in many of the rural communities that were strongholds for Mr. Trump." Darci Vetter, a former chief agricultural negotiator for the US Trade representative, highlighted that "Canada and Mexico were America's No. 1 and No. 3 largest agricultural markets in 2016, and South Korea is a major market for beef, corn, pork and fresh fruit, Ms. Vetter said. The United States exports cotton to Turkey and wheat and dairy to Brazil, other major suppliers of steel."

NBC Nightly News (3/2, story 6, 2:05, Holt) chief White House correspondent Hallie Jackson reported Trump had allegedly decided to make the announcement on the tariffs on Thursday after he "became 'unglued' this week, in the words of one source, by a series of events including Hope Hicks' testimony to lawmakers on Russia. That's according to two officials familiar with the matter. Seething and spoiling for a fight, the President picked one on trade, throwing the markets and his West Wing into turmoil with a single sentence."

***Ross, Navarro: Tariffs To Have Minimal Impact On Cost Of Products In US.*** Reuters (3/2, Heavey) reports Commerce Secretary Ross told CNBC on Friday said the President "seemed" to imply that the proposed tariffs would apply to all countries. Ross said Trump announced "a very broad concept of 25 percent on all steel and 10 percent on all aluminum." Ross added, "We'll have to see the intricate details, but that certainly is the broad outline and therefore it will have a fairly broad effect."

Fox News' Special Report (3/2, 6:41 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Ross as stating on CNBC, "You've got to look at the job creation and the impact on American employees. American employees have borne the brunt of all the imported steel and aluminum that's been coming in. So corporate America may complain; the President is taking up the banner of Mr. and Mrs. America." CNBC (3/2, Hirsch) reports Ross also insisted the tariffs will be "no big deal" and he cited the cost of a can of Campbell's Soup, but in a statement, a company spokesperson warned that "any new broad-based tariffs on imported tin plate steel – an insufficient amount of which is produced in the U.S. – will result in higher prices on one of the safest and more affordable parts of the food supply."

Meanwhile, Bloomberg News (3/2, Mayeda) reports that in an interview with Bloomberg TV, Ross acknowledged the Administration will

"have to deal with a global problem on a global basis" to stop the "recurring phenomenon" of countries trying to evade the new tariffs.

In addition, Fox Business (3/2, Limitone) reports White House National Trade Council Director Navarro said on "Mornings with Maria" on Friday that the price effects of the new tariffs will be limited. Navarro asserted the "whole idea that there's a big downstream effect – it's just part of the fake news that's going to be put out to oppose these tariffs." Navarro added, "A penny for a six pack of beer – that's worth it to put Americans back to work in two industries that we need."

The Wall Street Journal (3/2, A1, Schlesinger) in a front-page article reports an unnamed White House official also told reporters that the tariffs could not include exceptions because then many other countries would want them.

***Sanders: Trump "Pretty Committed" To Imposing New Tariffs, Says Cohn Not Likely To Resign.*** The Washington Times (3/2, Persons, Boyer) reports White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Friday told reporters, "Never say never, but I think [Trump's] pretty committed to moving this forward." She continued, "This is something he's wanted to do for awhile." Sanders added the President was not concerned by the stock market declines on Thursday following the announcement and insisted that he remains "focused on long-term economic fundamentals. ... He is incredibly focused on the American worker. It's something that we have to have and something we need to have."

Meanwhile, Reuters (3/2, Holland, Gibson) reports "White House aides scrambled to downplay the prospect of a resignation by free trade advocate Gary Cohn, the top White House economic adviser, over the matter." Sanders told reporters that she spoke with National Economic Council Director Cohn "several times" on Thursday and said she does not "have any reason to think" he plans to resign over the tariffs despite what Reuters says was "speculation that Cohn, who told Trump the markets would slump on a tariffs threat, might step down as a result of Trump's decision."

***GOP Lawmakers Criticize Tariffs, As Some Democrats Praise Plan.*** In an article titled "Trump's Steel-Tariffs Plan Rattles GOP Lawmakers," the Wall Street Journal (3/2, Mauldin) highlights Republican opposition to the President's trade policies in Congress, which includes Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady.

The AP (3/2, Thomas, Wiseman) reports that following Trump's tweet, Sen. Ben Sasse "echoed a sentiment of many U.S. lawmakers when he issued a statement in response: 'Kooky 18th century protectionism will jack up prices on American families.'" Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts warned, "Every time you do this, you get a retaliation and agriculture is the No. 1 target." Reuters (3/2, Chiacu) reports Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker in a statement on Friday "also urged...Trump to reconsider" the tariffs, which he warned would endanger

"good-paying, family-supporting jobs in America."

In the lead story for [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/2, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Baier), correspondent Bret Baier said many of President Trump's supporters and "almost all of his critics are expressing serious concerns" about his plans "to levy new tariffs on imported steel and aluminum." Another [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/2, 6:37 p.m. EDT, Baier) segment provided similar coverage.

However, [Reuters](#) (3/2, Cornwell) reports "some Democrats, mainly from Rust Belt states, but from other areas too, hailed" the proposed tariffs, including Sens. Sherrod Brown, Bob Casey, and Ron Wyden as well as Reps. Tim Ryan and Bill Pascrell. According to Reuters, the Democratic support "clashed with a generalized strong worry among most Republicans, long-time free trade champions, that Trump's move could trigger an international trade war." Reuters adds that a spokesman for House Speaker Ryan "urged Trump to reconsider his plan and its potential unintended consequences."

***Steel Makers Praise Tariff Plan, As Other Corporate Leaders Unite In Opposition.*** In an article headlined "Steel, Aluminum Makers Are Among Few To Praise Tariff Plans," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, Cameron, McGroarty) reports Nucor Corp., US Steel Corp., and Century Aluminum Co. embraced the President's proposal to impose tariffs, although Alcoa Corp. and California Steel Industries Inc. did not. In another article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, Trentmann) says German steel trader Klöckner & Co. forecast benefits from the tariffs and both German steel company Thyssenkrupp AG and Austrian steel producer Voestalpine Stahl GmbH projected that the measures will have only a limited impact on their operations. In addition, Russian steelmaker PAO Severstal said it intends to redirect shipments to other countries in response while a spokesman for Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal said the company is still assessing the impact of the proposed tariffs.

According to the [AP](#) (3/2, Wiseman), the tariffs are "meant to protect an industry that employs about 140,000 Americans," but they "stand to hurt a far larger group of U.S. workers: the 6.5 million who work in industries that buy steel – from automakers to aircraft manufacturers to suppliers of building materials." [Bloomberg News](#) (3/2, Kaplan) reports "a broad swath of corporate America strongly disagrees" with the tariffs, "saying the levies will boost prices on everything from cars to beer and force companies to cut jobs." Bloomberg adds that "the policy would hit the auto and aerospace industries hardest, [but] it would also have ramifications for a wide range of businesses – and products that Americans purchase daily."

[Reuters](#) (3/2, Carey) reports that according to data from Statista, the US auto industry "accounted for 26 percent of U.S. steel demand in 2017, behind the construction industry's 40 percent." [Reuters](#) (3/2, Shepardson) reports Ford Motor Co in a statement on Friday cautioned the tariffs could harm the "competitiveness of American manufacturers" even though it



already buys "the vast majority of its steel and aluminum for U.S. production in the U.S."

The Wall Street Journal (3/2, Kostov) reports a number of beer and beverage companies have also expressed opposition to the tariffs over concerns they will lead to price hikes for aluminum cans. Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times (3/2, Mohan) says agricultural economists are warning food prices could be among the "casualties" of a trade war. The Times adds "no state has more at stake than California, which leads the country in agricultural revenue."

On CNN's Situation Room (3/2, 6:24 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), The Atlantic senior editor Ron Brownstein said the reaction to the tariff proposal "is revealing of how much of the President's economic agenda is build on restoration, trying to restore the economic order" of "the mid-20th century." Brownstein added, "obviously, many more Americans" working in manufacturing industries "could be hurt" if higher aluminum and steel prices reduce "our ability to export to other countries. This is really about trying to protect and preserve one slice of the economy that has been shrinking, really at the expense of the components of the economy that are growing."

On CNN's Situation Room (3/2, 5:31 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), political senior writer Juana Summers asserted "people are scared" Trump's tariffs will trigger a trade war and she added many economists disagree with Trump's belief that such an outcome would be "a good thing." Meanwhile, Politics editor-at-large Chris Cillizza said nations impacted by such tariffs would also disagree with Trump's calculation and he predicted "they will retaliate."

***US Allies Denounce Tariff Plan, As Many Countries Threaten To Retaliate.***

On the lead story for CNN's Situation Room (3/2, 5:02 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), chief White House correspondent Jim Acosta declared that the tariffs are "almost certain to start a trade war" and Bret Baer said on Fox News' Special Report (3/2, 6:05 p.m. EDT, Baier) that the international response "has been almost universally negative."

The Wall Street Journal (3/2, Barnes, Jun, Turner) and Bloomberg News (3/2, Curran) reports the tariffs infuriated US allies more than they have China or Russia. Bloomberg says the tariffs, like Trump's previous trade proposals, are "hurting his allies more than his rivals."

The New York Times (3/2, Eddy, Bray) reports European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker pledged the EU "will hit back at the heart of the United States, slapping tariffs on products like Harley-Davidsons, Kentucky bourbon and bluejeans, if President Trump goes ahead with a plan to place tariffs on steel and aluminum imports." Reuters (3/2, Shalal) reports Juncker said, "If the Americans impose tariffs on steel and aluminum, then we must treat American products the same way," Juncker continued, "We must show that we can also take measures. This cannot be a unilateral transatlantic action by the Americans," He added, "I'm not saying we have to shoot back, but we must take action."

Bloomberg News (3/2, Jennen, Hermse) reports Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte also called on the EU to take "a united response to...Trump's pledge to impose a tariff on steel imports, which may hit the Netherlands and Germany the hardest." In addition, the Washington Post (3/2, Noack) says that "officials in Germany, which exports more steel to the United States than any other European country, were among the most vocal critics," but German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel told a local newspaper, "We must do everything we can to avoid an international trade conflict."

EU sources told Reuters (3/2, Blenkinsop) that the bloc "is considering applying 25 percent tariffs on around \$3.5 billion of imports from the United States if...Trump carries out his plan to apply global duties to steel and aluminum." Bloomberg News (3/2, Deaux, Mayeda, Olorunnipa, Wasson) reports Juncker specifically "said the bloc is prepared to respond forcefully by targeting imports of Harley-Davidson Inc. motorbikes, Levi Strauss & Co. jeans and bourbon whiskey from the U.S."

Reuters (3/2, Blenkinsop) reports the EU will also "join other countries in challenging the measures" at the World Trade Organization. The AP (3/2, Keaten, Rising) reports WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo "said the agency was 'clearly concerned' at the U.S. plans and warned that 'a trade war is in no one's interests.'" He added that "the potential for escalation is real as we have seen from the initial responses" and vowed that the WTO "will be watching the situation very closely." Reuters (3/2, Miles) says Azevedo's comments mark "an extremely rare intervention into a WTO member's trade policy."

Reuters (3/2, Wroughton) also reports the International Monetary Fund warned on Friday that the tariffs "would likely cause economic damage to the United States and its trading partners, and urged countries to resolve trade disputes without resorting to retaliatory measures." In a "terse statement," the IMF warned the tariffs "are likely to cause damage not only outside the U.S., but also to the U.S. economy itself, including to its manufacturing and construction sectors, which are major users of aluminum and steel." An IMF spokesman added, "We are concerned that the measures proposed by the U.S. will, de facto, expand the circumstances where countries use the national-security rationale to justify broad-based import restrictions."

In addition, Reuters (3/2, Schnurr) reports Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau "said on Friday any U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports would be 'absolutely unacceptable' and said his government would continue to engage with U.S. officials on the issue." In a separate article, Reuters (3/2, Ljunggren, Schnurr) reports Canadian officials have been "bombarding U.S. counterparts with calls to secure an exemption on potential steel and aluminum tariffs and threatening retaliation, but Ottawa has limited leverage to counter the plan, industry insiders and analysts said on Friday." A Canadian source "said officials are making the point that the steel and aluminum industries are so integrated that an exemption for

Canada, the largest supplier of both steel and aluminum to the United States, is obvious but admitted leveraging person-to-person contacts may not matter in the end" as Trump is the "one guy who is going to decide at the end."

Reuters (3/2, Angulo) reports Mexico's chief NAFTA trade negotiator Kenneth Smith told reporters on Friday that the tariffs should exclude Mexico and Canada because of the trilateral trade agreement "and because we are strategic allies of the United States...and we are going to maintain that position."

Reuters (3/2, Boadle) reports the Brazilian government also "expressed 'enormous concern' about the proposed U.S. tariffs and said Brazil may take 'multilateral or bilateral' action to protect its interests." Milton Rego, president of the Brazilian Aluminum Association, acknowledged that Brazil is not a big exporter of aluminum to the US, but he told Reuters, "Brazil has to watch out. This is a fight between elephants in a small room and, at the first move, someone else is going to get thrown out of the window." Reuters notes "Brazil is the second-largest source of steel imports into the United States after Canada, accounting for 13 percent of volume in 2017, and its steel industry risks significant damage from U.S. tariffs." Reuters (3/2, Boadle) says that the country's main industry lobby, CNI, in a statement on Friday said the tariffs "violate World Trade Organization rules and called on the Brazilian government to fight them and retaliate if possible."

Reuters (3/2, Chung, Westbrook) reports Australian Trade Minister Steven Ciobo warned a tariff "will do nothing other than distort trade and ultimately, we believe, will lead to a loss of jobs." Japanese Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko called for additional "clarification" from the Administration and said, "I don't think exports of steel and aluminum from Japan, which is a U.S. ally, damages U.S. national security in any way, and we would like to explain that to the U.S." Reuters adds that "South Korea, the third-largest steel exporter to the United States after Canada and Brazil, said it will keep talking to U.S. officials until Washington's plans for tariffs are finalised." India's Steel Secretary Aruna Sharma told Reuters, "We have only 2 percent of our exports to U.S. so no immediate dent, but validity of Section 232 is stretched to be used as a tariff barrier."

However, the AP (3/2, Boak) reports that in contrast to many US allies, "China – the world's largest steel producer and Trump's primary target – stayed quiet about how it would respond" to tariffs. The Washington Post (3/2, Denyer) says China "reacted with cautious criticism Friday to President Trump's plan to impose tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, urging the United States to abide by multilateral trade rules and do nothing to damage the fragile global economic recovery."

Although the Chinese Commerce Ministry expressed "grave concern" about the US attempting to pressure the government, the AP (3/2) acknowledges that the ministry "had no immediate response to President

Donald Trump's plan to hike tariffs on steel and aluminum." In another article, the AP (3/3, McDonald) reports Wang Hejun, head of the Chinese Commerce Ministry's trade remedy and investigation bureau, vowed, "If the final measures of the United States hurt Chinese interests, China will work with other affected countries in taking measures to safeguard its own rights and interests." The Wall Street Journal (3/2, Wei) highlights that the tariffs follow an unsuccessful month of intense lobbying by Chinese officials to convince the President not to pursue the protectionist trade policy.

Meanwhile, Reuters (3/2, Ivanova) reports "Russian metals and mining companies face relatively little harm from any introduction of U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, analysts and company representatives said on Friday." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian government shares the concerns of European officials and asserted the Kremlin is "carefully analyzing the situation which is forming in trade relations after this statement." Reuters (3/2, Golubkova) cites Interfax in reporting that Russian Deputy Prime-Minister Arkady Dvorkovich predicted "some damage to Russia" from the tariffs, but he forecast "the damage to Russia would be less than to the European Union or China."

***S&P 500 Gains On Friday But Posts Weekly Losses Over Fears Of Trade War.*** Reuters (3/2, Valetkevitch) reports that on Friday, the "major indexes posted their worst week of losses since early February," as the tariff "rattled investors." The Wall Street Journal (3/2, Gold, Erheriene) says the losses extended to foreign indexes, with the New York Times (3/2, Bray, Phillips) reporting that "the Nikkei 225 in Japan fell 2.5 percent, and the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong closed down 1.5 percent" while "the CAC 40 in France and the Xetra Dax 30 in Germany declined by more than 2 percent."

However, CNBC (3/2, Imbert, Gibbs) reports "U.S. stocks closed well off session lows on Friday, helped by a sharp rise in health care shares." CNBC says the S&P 500 "ended 0.5 percent higher at 2,691.25 after falling more than 1 percent," the Nasdaq composite "rose 1.1 percent to 7,257.87 [after falling] as much as 1.3 percent," and the Dow Jones Industrial Average "closed 70.92 points lower at 24,538.06 after falling as much as 391 points."

Meanwhile, Bloomberg News (3/2, Tomesco) reports Michael Sabia, the head of Caisse de Depot et Placement du Quebec, Canada's second-biggest pension fund manager, warned that the tariffs "would add to a 'cocktail of uncertainty' that threatens to slow business investment, stoke inflation and derail global growth, said the head of Canada's second-biggest pension fund manager."

***Experts Warn Tariff Likely To Backfire On Economy.*** Despite Trump's assertion on Twitter that "trade wars are good, and easy to win," the New York Times (3/2, Tankersley) reports "many economists say the opposite: that even the prospect of a trade war will hurt the economic expansion that is underway and that Mr. Trump loves to take credit for."

Writing in the New York Times (3/2, Irwin) "The Upshot" blog, Neil Irwin characterizes the Wall Street and corporate concerns over the tariff as "a signal about the willingness of the president to ignore his most sober-minded advisers and put the global economy at risk to achieve his goal of better terms for American trade." Irwin adds that "Trump not only overruled his more pro-trade advisers, but he also did so in an impromptu way, seemingly setting policy before the details had been worked out and without buy-in from across his own administration. And by invoking national security concerns as the rationale for the action, the president was setting a precedent that could give other countries more wiggle room to use security as a reason for imposing tariffs on American goods."

In addition, according to Reuters (3/2, Leong), "should China, Japan and other nations, which have recycled their trade dollars through their Treasuries holdings, suddenly decide to whittle them down" in response to the tariffs, "markets could be in for a rough ride." Reuters adds that "such a retaliatory move, in the wake of Trump's first big protectionist action, comes at a time when foreign demand for U.S. debt is seen critical to offset an expected surge in federal borrowing needs, analysts and investors said on Friday."

Meanwhile, Reuters (3/2, Schneider, Saphir) reports the tariff proposal, when coupled with the new tax law and infrastructure plan, "could saddle the U.S. central bank with the worst of both worlds – rising inflation and a slowing global economy." Reuters adds "the combination of fiscal stimulus, which Fed officials viewed as hardly a game-changer for monetary policy, and a brewing trade war is a recipe for the sort of no-win situation central bankers faced in the 1970s when they had to stomach high inflation or run the risk that interest rate increases would trigger a recession."

In a separate article, Reuters (3/2, Graham, Ljunggren) says the President's remarks about the tariff has also "blunted efforts to renegotiate the 1990s-era North American Free Trade Agreement, which had already been disrupted by the early departure of a U.S. official handling one of the most divisive subjects, content rules for autos." Bloomberg News (3/2, Wingrove, Martin) similarly reports "Trump's latest trade salvo...landed squarely in the middle of Nafta talks, overshadowing efforts by his own negotiators and those from his biggest export markets to update America's most important free-trade agreement."

***Editorials Uniformly Critical Of Trump's Tariff Proposal.*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/2) warns "President Trump's improvised announcement of stiff tariffs on steel and aluminum imports" threatens to undermine the "commitments forged among men and women, over decades, across the Atlantic and the Pacific, determined to learn the lessons of the 20th century so as to prevent a repeat of its horrors." While "the saving grace of Mr. Trump's chaotic leadership style is that it sometimes leaves room for backtracking" and "there might still be time for damage control," the Post concedes "any refinement of Mr. Trump's tariff

plan would be a distant second-best solution." However, the Post concludes "even that is unachievable unless Mr. Trump compromises on the ideological objective that motivated his outburst in the first place."

The New York Times (3/2) editorializes "Trump has been spoiling for a trade war since before his election," but as he takes "the first meaningful step" in that direction, the President shows he has "little understanding" of the consequences of his actions. The Times contends "if Mr. Trump were truly interested in getting China to reduce its excess production, he would have worked with the European Union, Canada, Japan, South Korea and other countries to put pressure on Beijing," but instead the President "angered American allies with this move." The Times concludes that while "the steel and aluminum tariffs might, on their own, have only a small impact on the economy," many experts are worried "Trump is just getting started and will impose new tariffs on a host of other imports, sending the United States into a much broader trade war, the likes of which the world hasn't seen since the Great Depression. That would have a large and devastating economic impact, in the United States and around the globe."

In an scathing editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/2) denounces the proposed tariffs as potentially one of the biggest mistakes of Trump's presidency. The Journal also dismisses Trump's defense of the policy on Twitter as ignorant of the realities of international trade and economics.

In an editorial, the Los Angeles Times (3/2) similarly contends "neither Trump nor some of his key advisors are being realistic about the consequences of a trade war." The Times says that while "you can't fault Trump for wanting to help the workers whose lives have been disrupted" by changing global trade patterns, "they would be well served by far better U.S. efforts to enforce global trade rules and to retrain workers for new careers." The Times warns Trump's proposal "won't provide the relief he's promising. Instead, it's bound to make things worse for everyone." The Times concludes "trade wars, like shooting wars, are waged to inflict casualties. And like shooting wars, they tend to escalate. So the best approach is not to start one."

### **After Meeting With NRA, White House Says Trump Is Not Yet Decided On What Gun Control Measures He Supports.**

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Friday said President Trump has not yet decided what gun control measures his Administration will support, an announcement that a handful of media outlets highlighted follows a private meeting with officials from the National Rifle Association on Thursday night. While reporting was limited, coverage characterized her remarks as suggesting the President is backing away from his comments on Wednesday expressing support for several proposals opposed by the NRA and GOP leaders.

The Washington Post (3/2, Nakamura), for example, says "the White House appeared to soften its tone on gun-control measures" after Trump's private meeting with NRA officials. The Post reports Sanders "said Trump

still supports raising the age limit to buy assault rifles from 18 to 21 but added that he understands there is 'not a lot of broad support' for such a proposal." She added, "I think he thinks it would probably have more potential in the states than it would at the federal level." She also said that when it comes to background checks, "Trump does not necessarily support universal background checks 'but certainly improving the background check system. He wants to see what that legislation, the final piece of it looks like. 'Universal' means something different to a lot of people.'" The Washington Times (3/2, Boyer, Persons) reports she said Trump "will not support the so-called Toomey-Manchin gun bill on background checks until lawmakers finalize the details."

However, the Wall Street Journal (3/2, Andrews, Radnofsky, Peterson) reports Sanders continued, "In terms of what legislation, as of right now he supports the Cornyn legislation." The Washington Times (3/2, Sherfinski) reports Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn on Friday told reporters that Trump called him on Thursday evening to confirm his support for the bipartisan legislation, which would "incentivize states and federal agencies to share more of their records with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)." The AP (3/2, Lucey) reports Sanders also stated that Trump supports "a bill that would provide new federal grant funding to stem school violence."

Meanwhile, ABC World News Tonight's (3/2, story 5, 2:55, Muir) Mary Bruce reported "the about-face is what Democrats had feared and predicted." While Bruce added that Democrats on Friday "blast[ed] the President for changing his tune," Reuters (3/2, Chiacu) says Senate Minority Leader Schumer urged Trump to "go with his instincts, not the clarion and destructive call of the NRA." Schumer added the President "knows instinctively that this is the right thing to do both substantively, because it will save tens of thousands of lives, and politically, because over three quarters of the American people support it."

The Washington Times (3/2, Persons) reports "Sen. Chris Murphy, a noted critic of President Trump," on Friday tweeted, "Trump may not end up leading Congressional Republicans to water on guns, but his willingness to buck the gun lobby in public, rule out the NRA agenda, and talk up background checks, has changed this debate nationally."

***DeVos Awards \$1 Million Grant To Aid Parkland School District.*** The Washington Times (3/2, Richardson) reports Education Secretary DeVos on Friday announced the Department of Education will award a Project School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV) grant "to the Broward County Public Schools in Florida in the aftermath of last month's deadly shooting, starting with a \$1 million grant." In a statement, DeVos said, "My heart is broken for the students, teachers and families who have had to endure this unthinkable tragedy." DeVos added, "I am committed to helping identify solutions to prevent another tragedy like this one from happening again."

***Lawmakers In At Least 24 States Considering "Red Flag" Bills.*** The Wall

Street Journal (3/2, Kamp, Mahtani) reports lawmakers in at least 24 states are promoting legislation to allow courts to temporarily take the guns from people considered to be imminently dangerous.

However, Bloomberg News (3/2, Olorunnipa, Edgerton, Stohr) reports Trump "hit a nerve with gun-rights enthusiasts this week after suggesting firearms should be confiscated from potentially dangerous people without a court's approval, remarks that raised concerns among conservatives about his respect for the concept of due process." According to Bloomberg, "his remarks cut to a visceral fear of the most ardent supporters of gun rights: the government seizing weapons from law-abiding citizens." Bloomberg says the comments "also revealed an exceedingly rare divide between Trump and Vice President Mike Pence," who said during the meeting that it is important to "allow due process, so that no one's rights are trampled." Bloomberg adds Pence said the proper steps is "to go to court, obtain an order, and then collect not only the firearms, but any weapons in the possession of that individual," but Trump argued that law enforcement officials should instead "take the guns first, go through due process second."

The Hill (3/2, Bowden) reports Fox News anchor Shepard Smith on Friday "denounced" Trump's proposal "as un-American as imaginable." Smith asked, "Is there anyone there who is able to discern what has happened and why these things keep coming out in these ways that really end up usually walked back and are bordering on nonsensical?"

***Local Officials Embrace "Novel Efforts" To Improve School Security, But Experts Warn That Florida Proposals May Be Ineffective.*** The AP (3/2, Yonker, Melia) reports that "in the jittery aftermath of the shooting in Parkland, Florida, novel efforts to ramp up school security are flying fast as districts across the United States respond to heightened fears as well as threats and rumors of violence that have only seemed to multiply since the latest tragedy."

In a front-page article, the New York Times (3/2, A1, Bosman) similarly reports many communities are increasingly "navigating a fine, sometimes blurred, line between vigilance and overreaction." According to the Times, "attentive school administrators are facing a daily dilemma: Take every possible threat seriously and risk a needless disruption to the school day, a noisy police response and a crush of worried parents. Or, ignore what could be a real threat and risk the nightmare of your school becoming the next Parkland."

However, Politico (3/2, Glorioso) reports "experts say" that proposals in Florida to increase funding for the state's mental health programs by up to \$138 million "would do little to stop the next Nikolas Cruz" and "would create a parallel 'shadow mental health system' in which schools, instead of the state's already underfunded system, are duplicating services and trying to handle kids like Cruz with general mental health provisions that would be woefully inadequate." In addition, Politico states that "even in the current system, there's no uniform assessment tool that can reliably



predict who's just an angry young man and who's a budding mass shooter – a task that becomes even more complicated in a state awash in firearms and a patchwork of ad hoc mental health services that the state doesn't fully fund or closely track in some cases." Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (3/2, Hughes, Campo-Flores) reports that by endorsing several gun control measures, Florida Gov. Rick Scott may have derailed his expected bid for the Senate later this year.

***Outdoor Retailers to Stop Sales Of Gun Maker With NRA Ties.*** The New York Times (3/2, Creswell) reports outdoor retail cooperatives Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) and Mountain Equipment Co-Op on Thursday said "they were suspending orders for popular items like Bell bicycle helmets and CamelBak water bottles from the company that owns the brands, Vista Outdoor, because Vista also makes assault-style rifles," and according to the Washington Post (3/2, Flynn), because Vista "has a strong connection to the National Rifle Association."

The Wall Street Journal (3/2, Nassauer) reports Vista had spent more than \$1 billion to buy several consumer brands to help diversify its business away from guns, but Bloomberg News (3/2, Bhasin, Mosendz) says the backlash against the company comes "as part of a growing public revulsion to the Florida high school massacre and the gun lobby's defensive response." Bloomberg highlights that "even some of Vista's own brands are trying to distance themselves from their parent company."

***L.L. Bean Joins Kroger, Walmart In Raising Minimum Age For Gun Sales.*** Reuters (3/2, Cavale) reports L.L. Bean on Thursday announced that it will join Kroger Co, Walmart Inc., and Dick's Sporting Goods Inc. in raising the minimum age for buying guns and ammunition from 18 to 21, but "said it sold firearms only at its flagship store in Maine and those guns only focused on hunting." The company on Friday highlighted that "it does not sell assault-style firearms, high-capacity firearms, bump stocks or handguns."

However, the New York Times (3/2, Hsu) concedes that whether changes like this "will actually have a meaningful effect on gun sales is difficult – if not impossible – to know." The Times highlights that "in an era when the toy industry can pinpoint the overall value of all dolls sold domestically each year and the federal government tracks the number of trucks sold in any given month, data on gun sales is obscured by foggy reporting standards and loopholes." The Times adds "there is no nationwide registry that tracks gun ownership while firearms are available to purchase from a decentralized network of retailers, shows and individuals that operate publicly, privately, online and offline."

***WSJournal A1: BlackRock Publicizes Concerns With Gun Industry.*** In a front-page article, the Wall Street Journal (3/2, A1, Krouse) reports BlackRock Inc., the largest money manager by assets in the world, posted on its website a list of questions for gun makers and sellers. According to Reuters (3/2, Kerber), BlackRock also disclosed that "it is studying the creation of new index-based portfolios of stocks that would exclude

gunmakers and retailers," which amounts to "the most detailed critical stance by a big financial firm after last month's deadly high school shooting in Florida." Reuters states that "were it to launch the new portfolios, the step in theory might reduce demand for industry stocks given the firm's leading stakes in companies like American Outdoor Brands Corp and Sturm Ruger & Co.."

***Delta Swears Off Discounts To All "Politically Divisive" Groups Following Backlash For Cutting NRA Ties.*** The Washington Post (3/2, Lac, Eltagouri) reports Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian, "caught in a maelstrom over his company's decision to cut ties with the National Rifle Association," on Friday announced the company will end all discounts "for any group of a politically divisive nature." The New York Times (3/2, Hsu) reports Bastian in a memo to employees asserted, "Our people and our customers have a wide range of views on how to increase safety in our schools and public places, and we are not taking sides." He added: "Our decision was not made for economic gain and our values are not for sale." Reuters (3/2, Wise) reports Bastian also insisted "Delta's intent was to remain neutral," even though "some elected officials in Georgia" had demanded the airline reinstate the NRA discount in exchange for a tax break on jet fuel.

The Washington Times (3/2, Richardson) reports Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed the legislation "that eliminated a lucrative tax break" for the airline on Friday, but Delta "insisted that there are no hard feelings." In a statement, Bastian said, "I have tremendous respect and admiration for Governor Nathan Deal, and thank him for the work he has done on the jet fuel tax exemption." Bastian added, "He is a great friend to Delta. I know this action by the state legislature troubled him as it does all of us."

According to the AP (3/3, Nadler, Rico), the decision by lawmakers in Georgia "to punish Delta Air Lines for publicly distancing itself from the National Rifle Association was an extraordinary act of political revenge" that could backfire on the state. The AP adds that "by killing a proposed tax break on jet fuel, pro-gun Republicans won a political victory that could pay off in the short term, but other companies won't soon forget that Georgia allied itself with the NRA over one of its largest private employers, with 33,000 workers statewide."

Meanwhile, the CBS Evening News (3/2, story 10, 0:20, Glor) and USA Today (3/2, Jansen) report that only 13 passengers had ever used the NRA discount.

***NRA Membership, Influence Is Unlikely To Decline Despite Corporate Boycotts, Analysts Predict.*** The Washington Post (3/2, Fisher) reports that while "the National Rifle Association is, like AAA or AARP, a bundle of bargains, a smorgasbord of savings on insurance policies, motel rooms, bottles of wine and prescription drugs," the NRA differs from these interest groups because it "unabashedly embraces controversy, lunging into battle with fiery rhetoric and no-holds-barred political attacks." The Post says that while businesses "that have cut ties with the NRA include big brand

names such as car-rental giant Enterprise, Delta Air Lines, MetLife insurance and the bank behind an NRA Visa credit card," the group "is unlikely to lose a significant number of members or see its influence diminished, according to those who have studied the organization." The Post adds "supporters and critics say the NRA is cushioned against this kind of pushback because its members sign up not for financial gain but for a chance to be part of a cultural vanguard."

***DNC Enlists Parkland Survivor In 2018 Voter Drive.*** The Washington Times (3/2, Richardson) reports "the Democratic National Committee has enlisted at least one shooting survivor to campaign on its behalf," as the DNC on Friday "issued a get-out-the-vote email...signed by Sara Imam, who wrote a first-person plea urging people to join the Democratic Party's #IWillVote campaign in order to commit to 'ending gun violence.'"

***Everytown For Gun Safety Pledges \$2.5 Million For Marches To End School Shootings.*** Reuters (3/2, Allen) reports Everytown for Gun Safety "said on Friday it will donate up to \$2.5 million to support marches around the United States on March 24, the date of a planned March For Our Lives in Washington to demand an end to school shootings."

***Poll: 75 Percent Want Stricter Gun Laws; 59 Percent Oppose Arming Teachers.*** NPR (3/2, Khalid) reports a new NPR/Ipsos poll of 1,005 adults nationwide, conducted Feb. 27-28, found 75 percent of respondents "said gun laws should be stricter than they are today," up from the October 2017 NPR poll "conducted...in the wake of the Las Vegas shooting," when "68 percent said gun laws should be stricter than they were." NPR adds, "The poll also found widespread bipartisan support for a range of gun-control policies, including: requiring background checks for all gun buyers (94 percent), adding people with mental illnesses to the federal gun background check system (92 percent), raising the legal age to purchase guns from 18 to 21 (82 percent), banning bump stocks (81 percent), banning high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds (73 percent) and banning assault-style weapons (72 percent)." Meanwhile, 59 percent said they oppose "training teachers to carry guns in schools," which is "frequently touted by President Trump."

***Studies Show Many Gun Control Policies Ineffective, RAND Analysis Finds.*** The Daily Caller (3/2, Hagstrom) reports an analysis by the RAND Corporation of thousands of gun control studies found "just 63 of those studies found connections between more stringent gun control laws violent crime and suicide reductions." However, the Caller says the analysis "found some evidence that laws aimed at keeping firearms out of the hands of small children had some effect on rates of suicide and accidental gun injuries."

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

### **New York Times.**

***"Donald Trump Sure Has A Problem With Democracy."*** A New York Times (3/4) editorial says Trump's "craven reaction" to President Xi Jinping

decision to extend his own rule until death is not only "in line" with his "consistent support and even admiration for men ruling with increasing brutal and autocratic methods," but also a reinforcement of how he "just doesn't get" America's "proud history" of protecting against such despotic moves. Unlike past presidents who "have combined efforts to deepen relations with China with advocacy for expanding human rights there," the Times says, Trump "clearly sees no national interest or responsibility in trying to promote democracy." Since Trump "has also proven ignorant of and impatient with checks on presidential power" in the US, the Times says, it is ultimately up to American voters "to fulfill Washington's hopes for the resilience of the American system."

### **Washington Post.**

***"Gratuitous Cruelty By Homeland Security: Separating A 7-Year-Old From Her Mother."*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/4) says the "cruel practice" of "separating parents from their children as a means of deterring other families, most of them Central American, from undertaking the perilous trip necessary to reach the United States and seek asylum," has become "increasingly common, immigrant advocacy groups say." The Post highlights the case of a 7-year-old Congolese girl who was forcibly separated from her mother and questions if this is the "kind of protection Americans want from their Department of Homeland Security."

***"The UN Human Rights Commissioner Says Shame Is In Retreat. He's Right."*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/4) praises Zeid Raad al-Husseini, whose term as UN high commissioner for human rights will soon end, for saying, "Today...oppression is fashionable again, the security state is back, and fundamental freedoms are in retreat in every region of the world. Shame is also in retreat. Xenophobes and racists in Europe are casting off any sense of embarrassment." Quoting Zeid as saying, "it is the accumulating human rights violations such as these, and not a lack of GDP growth, which will spark the conflicts that can break the world. .... Why are we doing so little to stop them," the Post says there is "no more relevant question" today.

***"Democracy Is Dying In Cambodia. Facebook Should Make Sure It Doesn't Help Kill It."*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/4) says Cambodian prime minister Hun Sen, "who has been relentlessly crushing democratic forces and grinding down civil society," has "9.5 million 'likes' on his Facebook page, nearly twice the number of Facebook users in Cambodia." Opposition leader Sam Rainsy "has filed suit in California federal district court, demanding information about Hun Sen's transactions with Facebook, insisting the prime minister's popularity is not authentic." The Post says "the manipulation of Facebook by autocrats raises worrisome questions," adding that while it "says it is committed to fighting the fake 'likes' and the 'bad actors.'" what will it do "if the bad actor is the leader of a nation? It ought not to neglect this challenge, however vexing." In Cambodia, the Post argues, "Democracy is dying in Cambodia at the hands of a despot,

and it would be a double tragedy if Facebook helped, however unwittingly.”

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**“The Qualcomm Question.”** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/4) argues in an editorial Broadcom Ltd.’s Hostile bid to buy Qualcomm Inc. deserves scrutiny by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US regardless of Broadcom CEO Hock Tan’s promise to President Trump that he would move Broadcom’s headquarters from Singapore to the US.

**“Steel Tariffs Without Jobs.”** In an editorial this morning, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/4) roundly dismisses the notion that President Trump’s tariffs will revive a steel industry which, according to the Journal, no longer exists as a significant segment of the economy.

**“The Italian Indecision.”** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/4) editorializes that the outcome of Sunday’s election in Italy, while not surprising, is unlikely to bring a close to the economic crisis that has embroiled Italy for roughly seven years. The Journal says the results clearly indicate that immigration was a key issue among Italian voters, but those voters should not expect the resulting government to provide the economic answers that they desperately need.

### **Big Picture**

---

#### **Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

##### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Trump Administration Beats Back Warnings On Tariffs](#)

[Europe’s Fragile Center Takes New Blows](#)

[How China’s Geely Turned A Disassembled Mercedes Into A Global Car Company](#)

[Uber Battles Ride-Sharing Startups In SoftBank ‘Family’](#)

##### **New York Times:**

[School Officer: A Job With Many Roles And One Big Responsibility](#)

[Divided Voters Weigh What It Means to Be a Democrat](#)

[Election in Italy Gives Big Lift to Far Right and Populists](#)

[Ben Carson On His Vexing Reign At HUD: Brain Surgery Was Easier Than This](#)

[Roger Bannister, First Athlete to Break the 4-Minute Mile, Dies](#)

[The Shift: Here Come The Fake Videos, Too](#)

##### **Washington Post:**

[The Jobs US-Born Workers Won’t Take](#)

[‘I Wonder: Am I Wanted?’](#)

[Banking Rules Set To Loosen In Senate](#)

[For Mayor, Problems Mount, Not Challengers](#)

##### **Financial Times:**

[Italians Head To Polls After Divisive Campaign](#)

'No Exemptions' For Donald Trump's US Steel Tariffs

Merkel Wins Backing For Grand Coalition

***Washington Times:***

Anti-Trump Bureaucrats Accused Of Weaponizing Security Clearance Process

FBI Lacked Corroboration For Page Wiretap; Discredited Dossier Writer Steele ID'd As Yahoo Source

China Opens Door To EU Influence Through Belt And Road's Divisive Investments

CDC Tackles Crisis Worse Than HIV/AIDS: Opioid Overdoses

Trump Boosts Dreamer Approvals As DACA Deadline Passes

Trump Won't Back Down On Tariffs Despite Widespread Fears Of Trade War

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Preempted by Academy Awards.

**CBS:** ISIS-Niger Attack; Tariff Policy; Gun Control Bill; Severe Weather; WV-Teachers Strike; Academy Awards-Me Too Movement; Track Athlete Dies; Syrian Civil War; Alzheimer-Archivist; Women For Congress; Film Prop Sale.

**NBC:** Tariff Policy; Tariff Policy-Asia; Tariff Policy-Europe; ISIS-Niger Attack; Italy Elections; WV-Teachers Strike; Florida-Gun Bill; Severe Weather-Power Outages; Weather Forecast; Colorado Wildfire; Academy Awards-Me Too Movement; Track Athlete Dies; TV Actor Dies; Academy Awards Ceremony; CDC Missing Employee; Alabama-Civil Rights Commemoration; Ice Cream CEO Arrested; Girl Scouts.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

Tariff Policy – 5 minutes, 40 seconds

Academy Awards-Me Too Movement – 4 minutes

WV-Teachers Strike – 3 minutes, 55 seconds

ISIS-Niger Attack – 2 minutes, 55 seconds

Severe Weather – 2 minutes, 45 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Academy Awards; Severe Weather; Historical Film.

**CBS:** Academy Awards; Severe Weather; WV-Teachers Strike; Tariff Policy.

**FOX:** Academy Awards; Tariff Policy; Papua New Guinea Earthquake.

**NPR:** Syrian Civil War; Italy Elections; Academy Awards.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Prime Minister Netanyahu; meets with US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

**US Senate:** 3:00 PM Senate votes on district judges nominees – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nominations of Karen Gren Scholer to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Tilman Eugene Self III to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, and Terry Doughty to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, with agenda including votes on the nominations \* Motions to invoke cloture on the nominations passed (by 96-1 for Scholar, 85-12 for Self, and 94-2 for Doughty) last week Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

**US House:** 11:30 AM Bipartisan House members call on OMB to withdraw plan 'putting 9/11 health program at risk' – 9/11 Health Program beneficiaries and advocates call on Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney to withdraw his 'ill-thought out proposal to separate the World Trade Center Health Program from National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) direction'. Participants include Democratic Reps. Carolyn Maloney and Jerrold Nadler, Republican Rep. Peter King, comedian Jon Stewart, UFA Local 94 IAFF President Gerard Fitzgerald, UFOA Local 854 IAFF President Jake Lemonda, AFL-CIO Health and Safety Officer Peg Seminario, Northwell Health Queens WTC Program Director Dr Jackie Moline, former Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Terence Opiola, and former FDNY Emergency Medical Technician Salvatore Turturici Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC [maloney.house.gov](http://maloney.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/RepMaloney>

2:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 1917 – Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 1119 – Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

**Other:** 9:00 AM World Bank President Jim Yong Kim speaks at 'Managing Risks for Peace and Stability' discussion – World Bank President Jim Yong Kim delivers opening remarks at the Fragility Forum strategic discussion on 'Managing Risks for Peace and Stability' Location: The World Bank, 1818 H St NW, Washington, DC [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org) <https://twitter.com/WorldBank>

HHS Secretary Azar addresses Federation of American Hospitals – Federation of American Hospitals Public Policy Conference and Business Exposition. Day two speakers include Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, Democrats Sen. Tim Kaine and Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, Republicans Sen. Todd Young and Rep. Peter Roskam, and Domestic Policy Council Director Andrew Bremberg Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC <http://fah.org/> <https://twitter.com/FedAmerHospital>

AIPAC Policy Conference continues – American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference – 'preeminent annual gathering of the pro-

Israel community' – continues. Speakers during conference include Vice President Mike Pence, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Education Minister and Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett, and Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley, USAID Administrator Mark Green, House Chief Deputy Majority Whip Patrick McHenry, Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin, bipartisan Reps. Anthony Brown, Ted Deutch, Eliot Engel, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Trent Kelly, Brian Mast, Seth Moulton, Stephanie Murphy, Jimmy Panetta, Robert Pittenger, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ed Royce, Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, Scott Taylor, and Lee Zeldin, Estonian Foreign Affairs Minister Sven Mikser, Albanian PM Edi Rama, Togolese Foreign Affairs Minister Robert Dussey, Chief Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, Arizona State Rep. Daniel Hernandez Jr., and Let America Vote founder Jason Kander Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC [www.policyconference.org](http://www.policyconference.org) <https://twitter.com/AIPAC> #AIPAC2018

Secretaries Chao and Shulkin address National Association of Counties Legislative Conference – National Association of Counties Legislative Conference. Day three speakers include Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, U.S. Acting Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Scott Ticknor, and International Trade Administration Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee Director Patrick Kirwan Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) <https://twitter.com/NACoTweets> #NACoLeg

Secretary Carson speaks at National Council of State Housing Agencies Legislative Conference – National Council of State Housing Agencies Legislative Conference, with Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson delivering remarks today, sharing 'his thoughts about HUD's affordable housing initiatives and the challenges and opportunities facing HUD and HFAs'. Speakers today also include Democratic Reps. David Price and Emanuel Cleaver, and Republican Rep. Randy Hultgren Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC [www.ncsha.org](http://www.ncsha.org) <https://twitter.com/HomeEverything>

Barack Obama keynotes CRT Conference – CRT (Cardiovascular Research Technologies) Conference continues, with a keynote speech from former President Barack Obama Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.crtonline.org/> [https://twitter.com/CRT\\_meeting](https://twitter.com/CRT_meeting)

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

*John Oliver:* "We begin with the Trump Administration, which is like a circus in that nothing about it is funny and I badly want it to end. This week, even by current White House standards, was such a mess we don't even have time to get into Mueller's investigation heating up or Trump flip-flopping on gun reform or the President's ongoing spat with his attorney



general.”

**John Oliver:** [Referring to President Trump’s comment on proposed tariffs] “Yes, trade wars are good and easy to win, which is weird, because if that was true, everyone would always win them, in which case they’d actually be hard to win, because everyone else would already have won them.”

**John Oliver:** “Our main story tonight concerns the NRA, a group that feels about guns the way the rest of us feel about Nutella. A little is good, more is better. And you can tell me it’s bad for me all you like, but you have to pry it from my cold, dead hands.”

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform’s terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva’s [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** Aaron Thiele[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[ (b)(6) ] Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Leila Getto[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; Luke Bullock[wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov]; Mike Argo[michael\_argo@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Zinke[cdr06@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** ryanzinke[ (b)(6) ]  
**From:** Boulton, Caroline  
**Sent:** 2018-03-05T15:41:55-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Electronic Briefing Book: 3.6.18  
**Received:** 2018-03-05T15:42:33-05:00  
[RKZ Daily Schedule 3.6.18.docx](#)  
[NFWF Agenda.pdf](#)  
[NFWF Reception Event Memo.docx](#)

All,  
Attached and below are tomorrow's schedule and briefing materials.

Best,  
Caroline

### **Daily Schedule**

**11:55am CST- 3:59pm EST**      **Flight from IAH to DCA**  
Flight: United 3560  
*Staff: Magallanes, Rigas, DeVito*

**4:10pm**                      **Depart DCA en route DOI**

**5:00pm**                      **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Board of Directors Reception**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Hommel, Willens, Larrabee, Sheehan*

**6:00pm**                      **NFWF Board of Directors Lincoln Tour**  
Location: Lincoln Memorial  
*Staff: Hommel, Willens, Larrabee, Sheehan*

**7:30pm**                      **NFWF Board of Directors Dinner**  
Location: Occidental Grill & Seafood

**RON**                      **Washington, D.C.**  
NOTE: staff will be setting up the Secretary's office for the reception at 4PM.

--  
Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403

# NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

March 5-7, 2018  
NFWF DC Office  
1133 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

## Monday, March 5

- 11:30 a.m. Buffet Lunch in NFWF Board Room Foyer
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Development Committee Meeting (Pintail)  
*(Sydney McNiff Johnson, Trina Overlock, John Tomke)*
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Government Affairs Committee Meeting (Coho)  
*(Don McGrath, Sydney McNiff Johnson, Eaddo Kiernan)*
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Audit Committee Meeting (Pintail)  
*(JJ Healy, Blas Fonalledas, Jen Mull Neubaus, Vicki Tschinkel)*
- 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Human Resources Committee Meeting (Coho)  
*(Don McGrath, John Faraci, Sydney McNiff Johnson, Reuben Mark, John Tomke)*
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Governance Committee Meeting (Pintail)  
*(John Tomke, Blas Fonalledas, Reuben Mark, Don McGrath, Trina Overlock)*
- 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Investment and Finance Committee Meeting (Sea Turtle Room)  
*(Max Chapman, Rod Rodriguez,, Paul Tudor Jones, Don McGrath, Jen Mull Neubaus)*
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting (Sea Turtle Room)  
*(Rod Rodriguez, Max Chapman, John Faraci, JJ Healy, Sydney McNiff Johnson, Paul Tudor Jones, Reuben Mark, Don McGrath, John Tomke)*
- 5:00 p.m. Meet in Lobby of NFWF or St. Regis Hotel Lobby. Board buses for Congressional Reception. One bus will depart from each location.
- 5:30 p.m. Arrive at U. S. Capitol Building
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Congressional Reception for Board of Directors  
U. S. Capitol, Mike Mansfield Room  
*Attire: Business*
- 7:30 p.m. Board Coaches to Return to St. Regis Hotel or NFWF

**Tuesday, March 6**

7:00 a.m. Breakfast – St. Regis Hotel – George Washington Room  
923 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

7:45 a.m. Meet in Lobby of St. Regis Hotel

8:00 a.m. Board Buses and Depart for Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
Visitors Entrance  
17<sup>th</sup> & State Streets, NW  
Washington, DC

8:10 a.m. Arrive at EEOB  
Proceed through security  
Proceed to Room 350

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks – *Rod Rodriguez*

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. NFWF Overview Briefing – *Jeff Trandabl*

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Presentation to Vice President Pence

10:00 a.m. Board Buses for NFWF

10:30 a.m. NFWF Board Meeting  
1133 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW,  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC

10:30 a.m. Welcome and Review of Agenda  
*Rod Rodriguez*

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. General State of the Foundation  
*Jeff Trandabl, Lila Helms, & TK Falayi*

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Conservation & Science Update  
*Holly Bamford*

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Federal Agency Updates:  

- *Greg Sheehan, Acting Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*
- *RDML Tim Gallaudet, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere*

12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch set up in Board Room Foyer – Take lunch to subcommittee meetings

12:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Subcommittee Meetings

- Birds and Wildlife (Board Room)
- Aquatic Conservation (Sea Turtle Room)

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Subcommittee Meetings

- Gulf Committee Meeting (Main Conference Room)
- Engaging People in Conservation Meeting (Board Room)

4:45 p.m.

Meet in Lobby of NFWF or St. Regis Hotel Lobby. Board buses for DOI Reception. 1 bus will depart from each location.

5:00 p.m.

Reception with Secretary Zinke  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
*Attire: Business*

5:45 p.m.

Board Buses for Lincoln Memorial

6:00 p.m.

Arrive Lincoln Memorial & Tour Catacombs

7:15 p.m.

Board Buses for Occidental Grill & Seafood  
1475 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

7:30 p.m.

NFWF Board of Directors Dinner  
Occidental Grill & Seafood – President’s Room

9:15 p.m.

Buses Return to St. Regis Hotel and NFWF

**Wednesday, March 7**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Board and Staff Breakfast – NFWF Cafe

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Executive Session (Board Members Only)

9:30 a.m.

**BEGIN OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING**

Finance Committee Report – *Max Chapman*

Investment Committee Report– *Rod Rodriguez*

Audit Committee Report – *JJ Healy*

Governance Committee Report – *John Tomke*

Human Resources Committee Report – *Don McGrath*

Development Committee Report – *Sydney McNiff Johnson*

Government Affairs Committee Report – *Don McGrath*

Gulf Committee Report & Grant Slate Approval – *John Faraci*

Subcommittee Reports & Grant Slate Approvals:

- Aquatic Conservation Overview – *Chad Pike/Steve Williams*
- Birds & Wildlife Overview – *Trina Overlock/John Tomke*
- Engaging People in Conservation – *Eaddo Kiernan/Steve Williams*

11:00 a.m.

Additional Items

11:30 a.m.

Adjourn



**THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

WASHINGTON

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board Reception**

Tuesday, March 7, 2018

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Department of the Interior

Action Officer: (Elinor Renner – [Elinor\\_renner@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov) – 202-706-9242)

**I. PURPOSE**

Meet and greet with the Board of Directors for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is dedicated to sustaining, restoring, and enhancing the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations.

**III. PARTICIPANTS**

*Internal*

Secretary Ryan Zinke  
Scott Hommel  
Todd Willens  
Jason Larrabee  
Greg Sheehan

*External*

NFWF Staff & other guests

1. Jeff Trandahl
2. Lila Helms
3. Holly Bamford
4. Amanda Bassow
5. Jonathan Birdsong
6. Tony Chatwin
7. Beth Christ Smith
8. Stephanie Tom Coupe
9. Ian Davidson
10. Julia DeBuchananne
11. Tim DiCintio
12. Tokunbo Falayi
13. Dave Gagner
14. Todd Hogrefe
15. Jay Jensen
16. Tanner Johnson
17. Christina Kakoyannis
18. Tom Kelsch
19. Greg Knadle
20. John Lamoreux
21. Nancy Olkewicz
22. Eric Schwaab
23. Mike Sharp

24. Dan Strodel
25. Chris West
26. Lindsey Kraatz (NOAA staff)
27. Chi Kim (Consultant)
28. Jeff Tenenbaum (Consultant)

Board Members & Spouses

1. Max Chapman
2. Donna Chapman
3. Michael Cline
4. John Dane
5. John Faraci
6. Blas Fonalledas
7. Diana Pérez – spouse of Blas Fonalledas
8. RDML Tim Gallaudet - NOAA
9. JJ Healy
10. Sydney McNiff Johnson
11. Jay Johnson
12. Roger Kelley – for Harold Hamm
13. Eaddo Kiernan
14. Ryan Lance
15. Reuben Mark
16. Don McGrath
17. King Milling
18. Jen Mull Neuhaus
19. David Neuhaus
20. Chad Pike
21. Rod Rodriguez
22. Elizabeth Rodriguez
23. Greg Sheehan
24. John Tomke
25. Vicki Tschinkel
26. Steve Williams
27. Beth Williams

**IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Set up

5:00 PM – 5:45 PM NFWF Board of Directors arrive for a brief reception in the Office of the Secretary

5:45 PM – 6:00 PM Board of Directors board buses. Depart the Department of the Interior for the Lincoln Memorial.

6:00 PM – 7:15 PM Tour of the Lincoln Memorial basement

7:15 PM – 7:30 PM Board of Directors board buses for Occidental Grill & Seafood

7:30 PM – 9:15 PM Dinner at the Occidental Grill & Seafood



9:15 PM Depart the Occidental Grill & Seafood

**V. PRESS PLAN**

N/A

**VI. REMARKS**

N/A. Confirmed with NFWF and Communications

**VII. ATTACHMENTS**

1. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Agenda



TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

**Daily Schedule**

**11:55am CST- Flight from IAH to DCA**  
**3:59pm EST** Flight: United 3560  
*Staff: Magallanes, Rigas, DeVito*

**4:10pm Depart DCA en route DOI**

**5:00pm National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Board of Directors Reception**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Principals Only*

**6:00pm NFWF Board of Directors Lincoln Tour**  
Location: Lincoln Memorial

**7:00pm NFWF Board of Directors Dinner**  
Location: Occidental Hotel  
*Staff: Swift*

**RON Washington, D.C.**

**To:** Boulton, Caroline[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Aaron Thiele[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; David Bernhard (b)(6); Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Leila Getto[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; Luke Bullock[wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Zinke[cd06@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]; (b)(6)  
**From:** Michael Argo  
**Sent:** 2018-03-05T16:25:54-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Electronic Briefing Book: 3.6.18  
**Received:** 2018-03-05T16:26:01-05:00

Thanks Caroline for getting this out early! Good job!

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 5, 2018, at 3:41 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

All,  
Attached and below are tomorrow's schedule and briefing materials.

Best,  
Caroline

### **Daily Schedule**

<b>11:55am CST- 3:59pm EST</b>	<b>Flight from IAH to DCA</b> Flight: United 3560 <i>Staff: Magallanes, Rigas, DeVito</i>
<b>4:10pm</b>	<b>Depart DCA en route DOI</b>
<b>5:00pm Reception</b>	<b>National Fish &amp; Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Board of Directors</b>  Location: Secretary's Office <i>Staff: Hommel, Willens, Larrabee, Sheehan</i>
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>NFWF Board of Directors Lincoln Tour</b> Location: Lincoln Memorial <i>Staff: Hommel, Willens, Larrabee, Sheehan</i>
<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>NFWF Board of Directors Dinner</b> Location: Occidental Grill & Seafood
<b>RON</b>	<b>Washington, D.C.</b>

NOTE: staff will be setting up the Secretary's office for the reception at 4PM.

--  
Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary

Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403

<RKZ Daily Schedule 3.6.18.docx>

<NFWF Agenda.pdf>

<NFWF Reception Event Memo.docx>

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-06T07:08:00-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 6, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-06T07:08:08-05:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 6, 2018 at 4:59:55 AM CST  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018 6:00 AM EST**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Washington Examiner: Ryan Zinke Postpones Oil And Gas Lease Sale Near Yellowstone After Local Opposition.
- Washington Post: The Next Wildfire Season Starts Soon. The Government Wants To Use Drones To Fight It.
- NextGov: Interior Wants To Know How To Manage Its Huge Social Media Presence.
- Washington Examiner: Alaska Senator Says Opening Of Arctic Refuge Could Start Next Year.
- Associated Press: Plan To Name Utah Highway After Trump Clears Hurdle.
- Federal News Radio (DC): POGO Outlines Results Of Interior Department Investigation.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- Indian Tribes Push Ahead On Plans For Connecticut Casino.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Associated Press: Judge Rules Against Tribes In Oregon Burial-Site Case.
- Associated Press: Columbian Mammoth Tracks Found At Fossil Lake.

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Plan To Open Drilling Off Pacific Northwest Draws Opposition.
- Protesters Rally Against Trump's Oil Drilling Plans.
- Fishermen, Environmentalists To Blast Offshore Drilling Plan.
- Offshore Drilling Forum Draws The Governor And Big Crowd.
- No Onshore Access? No Problem.

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- Supreme Court Rules US Has Role In Texas-New Mexico Water Dispute.
- Judge Shoots Down Delta Tunnels Foes' Request To Halt Key Hearing.

#### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- The Hill: Trump To Consider Elephant Trophy Imports On 'Case-By-Case' Basis.

#### **National Park Service**

- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: Flight 93 Memorial Seeks 400 Volunteers To Plant Trees.
- Associated Press: No Food, Lodging Expected At Sperry Complex This Summer.
- USA Today: New Historical Marker To Tell Truth Of Nathan Bedford Forrest, Slave Trade In Memphis.
- Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan: Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park Plans Entry Fee Increase.

#### **Insular And International Affairs**

- White House Announces Major Disaster Declaration.
- Guam DOE Prepares For Furloughs, Worst-case Scenario.
- With Cruise Ship Arrivals To USVI Down 20 To 30 Percent, Mapp, Tourism Officials Head To Seatrade In Florida <.
- Israeli Startup To Lead Marshall Islands Cryptocurrency ICO.
- Bill To Help Spokane's Marshallese Population Passes Washington Legislature.
- Local Students Debate Politics At The Junior Statesmen Winter Congress Convention.

#### **US Geological Survey**

- E&E Publishing: Nominee Returns To Earth For USGS Job.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- Ryan Zinke Spent His First Year In Office Selling Off Our Public Lands.
- Guest Opinion: Zinke Aims To Desecrate National Monuments.
- EDITORIAL Interior Secretary Makes An Odd Visit.
- Dan Haar: Tribes Start East Windsor Demolition But Casino Could Be Eight Years Away.
- Trump Energy Plan Is A Climate Changer.
- Additional Reading.

#### **Top National News**

- Washington Post: Trump: Canada, Mexico To Face New Tariffs Unless NAFTA Deal Is Reached.
- USA Today: Trump: Obama Launched Russia Investigation To Aid Hillary Clinton.
- Fox News: Tillerson: "We Have More To Do" To Address Russian Disinformation.
- Washington Post: With Trump Now A Candidate, Federal Employees Face Political Restrictions.

#### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Donald Trump's Tunnel Vision."
  - "Demagogues Win As Europe's Populist Tide Sweeps Italy."
- Washington Post.

- "Dodd-Frank Might Just Survive Republicans. Good."
- "It's Up to Merkel And Macron To Rescue Democracy In Europe."
- "Larry Hogan Leads A Breakthrough For Metro."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Warren Democrats For Wall Street."
  - "Treasury's Qualcomm Reversal."
  - "Professor Ross's Soup Can Economics."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Ryan Zinke Postpones Oil And Gas Lease Sale Near Yellowstone After Local Opposition.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/5, Siegel) reports that amid protests from locals, Interior Secretary Zinke said Monday that "he will delay an oil and gas lease sale planned this month in Montana near Yellowstone National Park." Zinke [tweeted](#), "After talking with residents and local, state and federal officials, we have decided to defer the oil and gas sale around Livingston #Montana." This marks "the second time Zinke in recent days has postponed an oil and gas lease sale after locals expressed opposition to the plans." On Friday, he "postponed an oil and gas lease sale near Chaco Canyon in northern New Mexico until the agency can review the impact on cultural artifacts in the area."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Grandoni, Eilperin) reports that while Zinke withdrew 26 parcels from consideration, Interior next Monday will proceed "with the auction of the remaining 83 parcels, which encompass nearly 46,200 acres."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (3/5), [Reuters](#) (3/5, Volcovici), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/5, Nemeck), and the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (3/5, Devlin).

#### **The Next Wildfire Season Starts Soon. The Government Wants To Use Drones To Fight It.**

The [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Grandoni) reports that last year, the Interior Department, "which leads interagency efforts on unmanned aircrafts outside the Pentagon, flew 707 drone missions on 71 wildfires." Currently, "the federal government just uses small drones to surveil fires and aid firefighters on the ground." But the goal is "to deploy retardant-dumping helicopters capable of being flown either manned and unmanned, so firefighting efforts can continue around the clock."

#### **Interior Wants To Know How To Manage Its Huge Social Media**

**Presence.**

[NextGov](#) (3/5, Boyd) reports that the Interior Department, which "has more than 1,500 social media accounts," is seeking "to be able to manage them all through one central portal." Interior "released a notice of sources sought Monday seeking information on tactics for managing social accounts enterprisewide, as well as companies who have experience in this area." Specifically, the department is "looking for a single platform – either a tool or 'suite of tools' – to manage social accounts across platforms."

**Alaska Senator Says Opening Of Arctic Refuge Could Start Next Year.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/5, Siegel) reports Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan yesterday "said he hopes that the Interior Department could begin opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 2019, ahead of the timeline expected by Congress." During a CERAWEEK panel discussion, Sullivan said, "It is my hope, and this is a very aggressive timeline, that we would have the first [oil and natural gas] lease sale to be sometime in 2019." According to Sullivan, officials with the Interior Department are visiting ANWR "this week to scope opportunities for energy exploration." [The Hill](#) (3/5, Cama) reports Sullivan "encouraged oil industry officials there to bid in the lease sales." The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/6, Connelly) also provides coverage.

**Plan To Name Utah Highway After Trump Clears Hurdle.**

The [AP](#) (3/5, Whitehurst) reports that "a plan to name a Utah highway after President Donald Trump to recognize his contentious decision to shrink two sprawling national monuments got a nod of approval from a panel of state lawmakers on Monday." The proposal, backed by Rep. Mike Noel, "would rename National Parks Highway, which overlaps several roads connecting well-known parks like Zion, Arches and Bryce." Noel said, "President Trump cares about the public lands. President Trump's family cares about the public lands and he cares about Utah and what we're thinking."

Also reporting are the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/5, O'Donoghue) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (3/5, O'Donoghue).

**POGO Outlines Results Of Interior Department Investigation.**

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (3/5) reports that "an investigation by the Project On Government Oversight suggests the Interior Department is losing out on billions of potential dollars" from its offshore drilling plan "thanks to a flawed bidding process that undervalues certain tracts." David Hilzenrath, POGO's Chief Investigative Reporter, "joined Eric White on Federal Drive with Tom Temin to talk more about the investigation."

**Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

**Indian Tribes Push Ahead On Plans For Connecticut Casino.**



The AP (3/5, Haigh) reports that leaders of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes staged a demolition ceremony at the proposed site of a "200,000-square foot gambling and entertainment venue" in East Windsor, Connecticut, as a sign that "they still intend to build a jointly owned casino near the border with Massachusetts despite delays in federal approvals." Mohegan Tribal Chairman Kevin Brown said, "We've been through too much already together to give up. And we're not going to." Both Brown and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council Chairman Rodney Butler said they hope the casino will be open "inside of two years." The New London (CT) Day (3/5, Hallenbeck) reports that Brown added, "The federal government has no control over our ability to proceed," and Butler asserted, "There's nothing to stop construction." Several speakers at the ceremony "took aim at MGM Resorts' efforts to stop the East Windsor project." State Sen. Cathy Osten called MGM's "lobbying tactics 'disrespectful'" and "said 'not one thing was right' about MGM's efforts to block the East Windsor casino while proposing to pursue an alternative project in Bridgeport." Osten added, "They've been here before and they've lied to Connecticut residents," referring to a previous licensing agreement between MGM and Foxwoods.

The Springfield (MA) Republican (3/5, Kinney) reports that at the ceremony, East Windsor First Selectman Robert Maynard said, "Maybe we should thank MGM. ... Without them coming to Springfield, maybe the tribes would not be building here. And this is a great site." If the East Windsor casino is built, it "would be smaller than MGM Springfield, only 100,000 square feet versus 759,000 square feet of space." Brown said that demolishing an old movie theater at the site "is expected to take six weeks."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Judge Rules Against Tribes In Oregon Burial-Site Case.**

The AP (3/5) reports Magistrate Judge Youlee Yim You ruled the Yakama Nation and Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde failed to show that the Federal Highway Administration violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act when it widened Highway 26, near Oregon's Mount Hood, east of Portland. The AP says the judge "handed a defeat" to the tribes, which "failed to show that the project substantially burdened their right to practice religion." The tribes said the FHWA "could have widened the road without bulldozing a site that included a stone altar and medicinal plants."

The Oregonian (3/5, Bernstein) reports that Oregon tribal leaders said Monday they will challenge the judge's ruling. Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde member Carol Logan called the ruling "heartbreaking."

### **Columbian Mammoth Tracks Found At Fossil Lake.**

The AP (3/5, Liedtke) reports that fossilized tracks by Columbian mammoths have been found "in an area of Lake County popular among fossil hunters that has earned the moniker Fossil Lake." The site "features remnants of the ancient animal's footprint trails, called trackways, and

imprints of ancient soil, known as paleosols." The study was "led by Greg Retallack, a University of Oregon professor from the university's Museum of Natural and Cultural History, along with several students in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management and University of Louisiana-Lafayette."

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **Plan To Open Drilling Off Pacific Northwest Draws Opposition.**

The [AP](#) (3/5) reports on protests to a Trump Administration proposal to expand offshore drilling off the Pacific Northwest coast, saying "the governors of Washington and Oregon and other top officials have slammed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's plan to open 90 percent of the nation's offshore reserves to development by private companies." Opponents organized a hearing in Olympia Monday "ahead of an event hosted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to take public comment." Zinke had touted the economic benefits of the plan, saying those funds would help fund conservation efforts.

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/5, Connelly) reports that "a cross-country group of 227 legislators, representing 17 coastal states," wrote to US Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Monday in opposition to the plan. However, they also "applauded Zinke for removing Florida's coasts from the program, which would allow drilling in more than 90 percent of America's Outer Continental Shelf waters." The bipartisan group of lawmakers cited concern over recent environmental disasters caused by offshore drilling.

### **Protesters Rally Against Trump's Oil Drilling Plans.**

The [AP](#) (3/5, Casey, Ramer) reports, "Dozens of protesters rallied in New Hampshire on Monday against" the proposal, "saying it poses a grave threat to the state's marine ecosystem and economy." Protesters carried signs "outside a Concord hotel that was hosting an information session by federal officials to explain the process that could lead to drilling for oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf in the North Atlantic" - "one of 23 the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is holding on drilling plans including one in Maine on Wednesday." BOEM Office of Strategic Resources Chief Renee Orr said, "There are a lot of passions around oil and gas drilling. People understand that it is a potentially risky activity," adding, "It's a proposal, a draft proposal. It's important for people to know that the process we are talking about is 10 to 15 years from where we are now to when there might be exploration happening offshore."

[New Hampshire Public Radio](#) (3/5, Ropeik) reports online that inside the meeting, "BOEM staff talked to residents about the science of their work, and how climate change will factor in." Orr said "she wants people to understand how Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke will finalize his drilling plan." Orr said that then "their comments then can be much more impactful than 'I hate oil and gas' or 'I love oil and gas.' That's really not informative to the

decisions that he has to make and the balancing he has to do." The comments BOEM receives "in New Hampshire and nationwide are part of a 'winnowing process' for Zinke's final proposal," which is due in December, and which "may eliminate some areas from consideration," according to Orr.

### **Fishermen, Environmentalists To Blast Offshore Drilling Plan.**

The AP (3/4, Whittle, Villeneuve) reports opponents to the Trump administration's offshore drilling plan, including "fishing groups, environmentalists, politicians and tourism advocates," are preparing "to use a pair of public hearings this week to oppose the Trump administration's proposal to expand offshore drilling in the Atlantic and other ocean waters." Representatives of the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold hearings in Maine and New Hampshire this week on the proposed drilling plan. In Maine, a coalition of various advocacy groups "will assemble before the Wednesday meeting to oppose drilling." The "motley group" has "some organizations that normally have competing interests, such as environmentalists and fishermen," but all share concerns over the impact of offshore drilling on the state's economy and natural resources. The AP (3/5) reports the BOEM will host meetings on the Trump administration's proposed offshore drilling plan on Monday in New Hampshire and on Wednesday in Maine.

### **Offshore Drilling Forum Draws The Governor And Big Crowd.**

WVEC-TV Hampton Roads, VA (3/6, Her) reports online on an offshore drilling forum at ODU in Norfolk, Virginia, where Gov. Ralph Northam (D-VA) "stood behind those against offshore drilling." Northam said, "We need to stop putting carbon into our atmosphere so we need to wean ourselves away from fossil fuel so the last thing we need to be doing right now is drilling off of our coast."

### **No Onshore Access? No Problem.**

E&E Publishing (3/5, King) summarizes how "state officials in California and Washington have vowed to wield their power against the build-out of new pipelines, cables and other coastal infrastructure to deliver crude ashore," while "New Jersey lawmakers are working on their own legislative measure to block state permits that would support offshore extraction." However, National Ocean Industries Association director Tim Charters said "the most promising new waters are close to existing transport options," meaning the "industry has the ability to do floating production." The eastern Gulf of Mexico is "the only swath of the third coast that remains off limits to drilling," and as a result offshore firms see "the most potential" in the Nophlet play, according to US Chamber of Commerce executive Christopher Guith.

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Supreme Court Rules US Has Role In Texas-New Mexico Water Dispute.**

The [AP](#) (3/5) reports that the Supreme Court ruled on Monday that a lawsuit "pitting Texas against New Mexico and Colorado over access to water from the Rio Grande must be sent back to an arbitrator, also known as a special master, to resolve the dispute." Justice Neil Gorsuch "noted the federal government has an interest in ensuring water commitments are kept involving one of North America's longest rivers, citing an international agreement with Mexico and the decades-old Rio Grande Compact." The AP adds that "the federal government has said it may pursue claims for compact violations involving the dispute. 'A breach of the compact could jeopardize the federal government's ability to satisfy its treaty obligations to Mexico,' Gorsuch wrote."

[Reuters](#) (3/6, Grzincic) reports that "the unanimous high court rejected a February 2017 recommendation by the special master it had appointed to handle the case, who had said that the Rio Grande Compact was a contract between the three states and did not give the United States any right to enforce it."

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/5, Coleman) reports that Gorsuch's opinion "said the federal government must be allowed to meet its water obligations – including an international agreement with Mexico – and a breach of the decades-old Rio Grande Compact would hinder that duty." Texas "claims that New Mexico farmers and pecan growers illegally pump groundwater from below Elephant Butte Dam," while New Mexico "claims that its water obligations to Texas are measured at the dam." New Mexico "had filed a motion to dismiss Texas' lawsuit, but in July a so-called special master appointed by the Supreme Court to analyze the case recommended the court reject that motion and allow the case to proceed." The Supreme Court's ruling "means that, in the words of the Court 'the case is remanded to the Special Master for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.'"

### **Judge Shoots Down Delta Tunnels Foes' Request To Halt Key Hearing.**

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/5, Sabalow) reports that "a Sacramento County judge on Monday declined to temporarily stop the hearings that will decide the fate of Gov. Jerry Brown's Delta tunnels project after its opponents sued alleging the process had been tainted by secret meetings." In rejecting the request for a restraining order, Judge James P. Arguelles "said during a hearing in Sacramento that project opponents didn't provide enough evidence to show that he needed to halt the water-rights hearings before the State Water Resources Control Board." Tunnels opponents, "including the Sacramento County, Stockton, several Delta water agencies and a group of environmental organizations, sued last month, alleging the board met privately and illegally as far back as 2015 with representatives of the California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the lead agencies planning the tunnels."

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

### **Trump To Consider Elephant Trophy Imports On 'Case-By-Case' Basis.**

[The Hill](#) (3/5, Green) reports that the Fish and Wildlife Service "announced last week that it will now consider all permits for importing elephant trophies from African nations on a 'case-by-case basis,' breaking from President Trump's earlier promises to maintain an Obama-era ban on the practice." In a formal memorandum issued on Thursday, the FWS "said it will withdraw its 2017 Endangered Species Act (ESA) findings for trophies of African elephants from Zimbabwe and Zambia, 'effective immediately.'" The memo said "the findings are no longer effective for making individual permit determinations for imports of sport-hunted African elephant trophies." In its place, agency will instead "grant or deny permits to import a sport-hunted trophy on a case-by-case basis."

## **National Park Service**

---

### **Flight 93 Memorial Seeks 400 Volunteers To Plant Trees.**

The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (3/5, Erdley) reports that "spokesmen for the Friends of the Flight 93 National Memorial and the National Park Service and Park Service Foundation put out a call Monday for 400 volunteers to register for a workday at the memorial on April 27 and 28." The volunteers will "join an ongoing effort to plant 150,000 trees to reforest the site that had been ravaged by surface mining prior to Sept. 11, 2011." John Bernstiel, volunteer coordinate at the memorial, said, "This event is mostly conducted by volunteers and highlights what this memorial is all about — people coming together to make a difference, building a living memorial to honor the 40 crew members and passengers of Flight 93, and healing this piece of land as we continue to heal as a country."

### **No Food, Lodging Expected At Sperry Complex This Summer.**

The [AP](#) (3/5) reports that "even though the Sperry Chalet dining hall was only lightly damaged in a wildfire that gutted the Sperry dormitory in Glacier National Park, park officials don't expect to have any concessions at the hall this summer due to trail and other needed rehab." Crews are "not expected to finish clearing dead and downed trees along trails burned by the fire until late summer or early fall." Kevin Warrington, the concessionaire for both the Sperry and Granite Park chalets, "says he doesn't see any feasible way to provide concessions at the Sperry complex dining hall this season."

### **New Historical Marker To Tell Truth Of Nathan Bedford Forrest, Slave Trade In Memphis.**

[USA Today](#) (3/5, Waters) reports that "a new downtown Memphis historical

marker will 'tell the whole story' about Nathan Bedford Forrest and the antebellum slave trade in Memphis." The new marker, "sponsored by Calvary Episcopal Church, Rhodes College and the National Park Service, will be unveiled and dedicated April 4."

### **Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park Plans Entry Fee Increase.**

Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan (3/5, Marmaduke) reports that the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park will "increase its entry fees this spring to fund infrastructure upgrades, park officials announced Monday." Park officials sought public input on the proposed fee hike in June 2017. According to a news release from the park, "new people submitted comments, and most of them favored a fee increase."

### **Insular And International Affairs**

---

#### **White House Announces Major Disaster Declaration.**

The Talane'i (ASM) (3/2) reports that President Trump has "declared that a major disaster exists in the territory of American Samoa and ordered federal assistance to supplement recovery efforts in the territory due to Tropical Storm Gita from February 7 to February 12, 2018." The Talane'i (ASM) (3/2) reports that Governor Lolo M. Moliga welcomed the announcement. He said, "I would be remiss if I fail to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to President Donald Trump for accepting my earnest request for a major disaster declaration to ensure that the needs of Americans of Samoan ancestry and businesses victimized by Tropical Storm Gita are comprehensively addressed thus restoring hope for our people."

#### **Guam DOE Prepares For Furloughs, Worst-case Scenario.**

The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (3/1, Eugenio) reports that "the Guam Department of Education on Thursday said it is preparing for possible furloughs, but hopes the Legislature and Adelup will find a way to spare them from further financial cuts." The Guam Education Board "can vote on a furlough during its March 13 special meeting." According to Superintendent Jon Fernandez, "prior to that, Guam DOE will be 'status quo.'"

#### **With Cruise Ship Arrivals To USVI Down 20 To 30 Percent, Mapp, Tourism Officials Head To Seatrade In Florida ↵.**

The Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR) (3/2) reports that the U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp will "depart the territory Saturday to meet with cruise industry leaders ahead of the annual Seatrade Cruise Global conference." "to discuss most aspects of cruising in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Lieutenant Governor Osbert Potter will serve as acting governor until Mapp's return to on Monday. During Mapp's visit, "he will meet with the

leadership of the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association, top executives of several cruise lines, and Virgin Islanders in the South Florida area who he will debrief on the territory's recovery from Hurricanes Irma and Maria."

### **Israeli Startup To Lead Marshall Islands Cryptocurrency ICO.**

Globes (3/1) reports that "Israeli fintech startup Neema is working with the Marshall Islands in order to issue one of the world's first legal cryptocurrency tenders – the SOV." David Paul, minister-in-assistance to the president of the Marshall Islands said "The Marshall Islands is the first nation to adopt a transparent crypto monetary system, and we are proud of it. We are making our economy more resilient and payments more transparent."

Additional coverage was provided by the AP.

### **Bill To Help Spokane's Marshallese Population Passes Washington Legislature.**

Spokane Public Radio (WA) (3/1, Nadvornick) reports that "the Washington House has given approval to a bill that would provide members of Spokane's Marshallese population with subsidized health care." Rep. Marcus Riccelli, "one of the co-sponsors of the bill, argued there's a moral obligation to help the Marshallese." Rep. Sharon Santos "argued that, beyond the moral question, there's also a public health benefit." However, opponents, such as Rep. Joe Schmick, "say the responsibility is not the state's."

### **Local Students Debate Politics At The Junior Statesmen Winter Congress Convention.**

The Virgin Islands Daily News (3/5) reports that "a delegation of eight Virgin Islands high school students recently attended the Junior State of America's 'MidSoHio' (Midwest, Southeast and Ohio River Valley) Winter Congress Convention in Washington." The students "spent five days in the nation's capital, where they debated dozens of student-drafted bills during a mock-legislative session, visited cultural landmarks, and met with leaders including Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, Congressman and civil rights pioneer John Lewis, and Douglas Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas at the Interior Department."

### **US Geological Survey**

---

#### **Nominee Returns To Earth For USGS Job.**

E&E Publishing (3/5, Doyle) reports that former astronaut James Reilly II on Tuesday will face lawmakers on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for a confirmation hearing to serve as director of the U.S. Geological Survey. Reilly's "confirmation does not appear to face any serious turbulence, though the job he's aiming for will surely test him." The hearing will give Reilly "a chance to map out his vision for leading

approximately 8,200 full-time USGS employees,” and “it will also give lawmakers a chance to press the political novice on how he would defend an agency that sometimes feels unloved.”

Additional coverage was provided by the Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (3/5, Bunch).

## **Opinion Pieces**

---

### **Ryan Zinke Spent His First Year In Office Selling Off Our Public Lands.**

Vox (3/5, Katz) reports that “from his recent proposal to open almost all of America’s coast to offshore drilling to rolling back federal protections on national monuments,” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “taken extraordinary steps to put public lands in private hands in service of fossil fuel companies and other industries.” Meanwhile, Zinke has “caught the attention of government watchdog groups that are already calling for ethics investigations into his activities.” According to the article, “allegations of political favoritism and loyalty to industry are recurring themes in five of Zinke’s biggest decisions to date, which affect the lives of millions of Americans.”

### **Guest Opinion: Zinke Aims To Desecrate National Monuments.**

In an op-ed for the Billings (MT) Gazette (3/5, Jarnevic), Michael Jarnevic, a retired U.S. Army sergeant major, claims that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s proposals “to shrivel multiple national monuments is nothing more than caving to the nefarious interests of the extractive resource industry – an industry that has been a consistent foe of wildlife and wildlands.” Jarnevic urges Zinke, “who gazes in the mirror and perceives himself as a latter-day Teddy Roosevelt,” to “understand that his behavior is the antithesis of the mind and soul of Teddy.” In Jarnevic’s view, “if alive today, Roosevelt would be aghast, angry, and merciless in his condemnation of Zinke as a tarnished utensil of the Trump administration.”

### **EDITORIAL Interior Secretary Makes An Odd Visit.**

The Greene County (PA) Observer-Reporter (3/6) editorializes that “much about” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “trip to East Bethlehem fire hall...was baffling – to local residents, the media and, likely, those who planned his appearance.” The paper observes that “the event had the feel of a hastily arranged news conference/town hall meeting/political opportunity.” It questions whether “this withholding of information have been intentional, to prevent protesters from descending on Fredericktown?”

### **Dan Haar: Tribes Start East Windsor Demolition But Casino Could Be Eight Years Away.**

Columnist Dan Haar asserts in the Stamford (CT) Advocate (3/5, Haar)



that actually opening a proposed casino in East Windsor “could take eight years” because of “two federal lawsuits, financing and actual construction.” Haar also opines that a bill in the Connecticut state legislature that would open up Connecticut’s casino industry to bidding “has a low chance of passing as long as it revokes the East Windsor casino license.” Haar concludes that the two-year timeline announced by the tribes is “a wildly optimistic schedule from the partnership that took two years to pick a town.”

### **Trump Energy Plan Is A Climate Changer.**

L. Todd Wood writes in a [Washington Times](#) (3/5, Wood) analysis that President Trump’s energy policy is “rightfully” centered on the idea that “energy independence is a national security priority.” Wood praises “Mr. Trump’s embrace of clean coal and associated technologies, to the delight of coal miners in West Virginia and elsewhere,” and “the revolutionary technology that goes along with the coal.” According to Wood, “Carbon capture provides the Trump administration the ability to achieve two of its stated policy goals at the same time. While enabling the resurgence of American coal to support energy independence, the development of such technologies also ensures Washington will lead the world in both the adoption and promotion of clean coal.” Wood concludes that “The policy of using carbon capture tax credits to spur technological advancement in the private sector for burning clean coal will stimulate the market and help scale up the effort to achieve the end goal of Trump energy policy – not just energy independence, but energy dominance, all the while adding to the Trump economic boom.”

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Interior Secretary Zinke Moves To Protect Big-Game Migration Routes.* [Pew Charitable Trusts](#) (3/5, Rait, Skroch).
- *What Would A Democratic House Do To Protect Our Environment?* [Pacific Standard](#) (3/5, Perry) .
- *What We Need Besides Lawsuits To Protect National Monuments From Trump.* [Hawaii Tribune-Herald](#) (3/6, Frank).

### **Top National News**

---

#### **Trump: Canada, Mexico To Face New Tariffs Unless NAFTA Deal Is Reached.**

Media reports shed a mostly unfavorable light on what they see as an attempt by the President to use the threat of steel and aluminum tariffs to gain leverage in the ongoing NAFTA talks. The [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Paletta), for example, says Trump “further expanded his personal trade war,” the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/5, Lee) that he is “using” the tariffs “as a bargaining chip in the bogged-down talks,” and [CNN Money](#) (3/5, Gillespie) that they are his “latest negotiating tactic to make Mexico and Canada

accept his demands." To Politico (3/5, Nelson), Trump "lashed out...against two of America's top international trading partners." Politico goes on to bemoan the President's "harsh" rhetoric toward Mexico, citing "his speech kicking off his 2016 campaign, in which Trump said Mexico was sending drugs and rapists into the US." Under the headline "Mexico Had Great Night At The Oscars. President Trump Still Tweeted Smear," meanwhile, USA Today (3/5, Puente) reports that "Mexico, America's southern neighbor regularly slammed by America's president, nevertheless got some love from Oscar Sunday night." Then "early Monday...Trump issued a negative tweet against Mexico. Again."

Trump said on Twitter, "We have large trade deficits with Mexico and Canada. NAFTA, which is under renegotiation right now, has been a bad deal for U.S.A. Massive relocation of companies & jobs. Tariffs on Steel and Aluminum will only come off if new & fair NAFTA agreement is signed. Also, Canada must... treat our farmers much better. Highly restrictive. Mexico must do much more on stopping drugs from pouring into the US. They have not done what needs to be done. Millions of people addicted and dying." Trump also tweeted, "To protect our Country we must protect American Steel! #AMERICA FIRST". Later in the day, the AP (3/5, Thomas, Miller) reports, the President "opened the door to exempting" both Canada and Mexico "from the planned tariffs, telling reporters, 'that would be, I would imagine, one of the points that we'll negotiate.'" However, he added, "If they aren't going to make a fair NAFTA deal, we're just going to leave it this way."

In fact, the Los Angeles Times (3/5, Lee) reports, despite loud opposition from Republicans and business groups Trump "seemed only to stiffen his resolve on the metals tariffs" yesterday. Reuters (3/5, Cornwell, Brice) notes that "without elaborating," the President told reporters, "We're not backing down," and "I don't think you're going to have a trade war." ABC World News Tonight (3/5, story 4, 2:05, Muir) similarly reported that the tariffs "roiled the financial markets and outraged American allies and Republican leaders," but "the President told us...he's not backing down." Trump was shown saying, "People have to understand: Our country, on trade, has been ripped off by virtually every country in the world, whether it's friend or enemy. Everybody."

The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Mauldin) and The Hill (3/5, Shelbourne), among other news outlets, run similar reports on Trump's trade gambit, while Reuters (3/5, Cornwell, Brice) says he "was expected to finalize the planned tariffs later in the week, posing a tough challenge for US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland and Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo." The three "were meeting in Mexico City on Monday to wrap up the latest round of discussions on revamping" NAFTA. Guajardo said on Twitter, "Mexico shouldn't be included in steel & aluminum tariffs. It's the wrong way to incentivize the creation of a new & modern NAFTA." Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau, meanwhile, "said the country was negotiating on

NAFTA with a partner that has 'changed the terms of the discussion.'"

CNN Money (3/5, Gillespie) notes that Freeland also weighed in, "Should restrictions be imposed on Canadian steel and aluminum products, Canada will take responsive measures to defend its trade interests and workers." The Washington Post (3/5, Paletta) indicates Trump's tariffs "are expected to hit Canada particularly hard," as "it is the top exporter to US markets of both steel and aluminum."

The New York Times (3/5, Swanson) reports that Jennifer Hillman, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, cautioned that "opening up exceptions for countries like Canada and Mexico for other factors like Nafta could also invite more challenges at the World Trade Organization." Added Hillman, "Unequivocally, I think there will be cases filed at the WTO, and there is plenty of ground to challenge this."

The New York Times (3/5, Tankersley) also reports that Trump's "fixation with America's widening trade deficit is fueling his decision to impose stiff tariffs on steel and aluminum imports," but "only a small group of experts share Mr. Trump's fixation, and few see tariffs as an effective tool to narrow the so-called trade gap."

***Anti-Tariff White House Officials Mount "Last-Ditch Effort" To Convince Trump.*** Politico (3/5, Restuccia, White, Cook) reports "economic adviser Gary Cohn and other free-trade advocates inside the White House and the Treasury Department are mounting a last-ditch effort to blunt the impact of Trump's head-turning decision, even as the president insisted Monday that he wasn't going to be convinced out of it." Cohn "and like-minded officials in the administration are hoping the parade of senior GOP lawmakers, donors, lobbyists and business groups loudly opposing the pending decision will convince Trump" to reverse himself. Politico adds that "one person close to the effort to change Trump's mind said over the weekend that he's confident the final proposal will be more nuanced than the one the president announced last week." Said "the person," "I'd bet my life that's not where it winds up."

***"Official" Says Trump "Somewhat Open" To Narrowing Tariffs' "Scope And Effects."*** The New York Times (3/5, Swanson, Landler, Haberman) reports the White House is "devising ways to potentially soften the impact of the measures on major trading partners." In fact, "the intense maneuvering, which began before Mr. Trump's unexpected announcement of the tariffs last Thursday, is likely to delay any formal rollout of the measures until next week, according to several officials who have been briefed on the deliberations." The Times cites "one White House official" who said "Trump has heard all sides' arguments, but his view has remained steadfast." Even so, adds the "official," Trump "is mindful enough of the arguments against potentially tanking the stock market that he has been somewhat open to a move to narrow the scope and effects of the tariffs while avoiding the perception that he was relenting."

Brit Hume said on  Fox News' Special Report (3/5), "My guess is he will go through with the tariffs that he's announced. He may soften the

effect on some of our allies as President George W. Bush did. I think these tariffs on steel and aluminum are going to happen. The question then really becomes whether they in themselves will cause as much havoc as some are predicting. I very much doubt that. The worry is what happens after that. Whether in fact the retaliation meets with retaliation again from him and pretty soon we have a trade war. There isn't anybody I know of that thinks a trade war is a good idea. ... My guess is the President will pull back from that and this will be another example of the President...blustering talk and threats and so on and it ends up being less than meets the eye. But we will see."

Tom Bevan of Real Clear Politics was asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/5) if Trump will moderate the tariffs in any way. Bevan said, "It is Trump, so who knows? We don't know exactly what he is going to do and even people around him don't necessarily know what he is going to do. I think he might, a little bit. This is a campaign promise. In fact, this is something that Trump talked about for decades about America getting ripped off and needing to have the kind of good deals put in place and to have fair trade. I think by and large he looks like he won't back off. I expect he won't. He may moderate on the margins, maybe on the numbers. This is a first real break he's had with his party on economic issues. ... He's got almost no support in his party for this. But I think that doesn't matter to him. I think he is still going to push forward with them."

***Ryan Urges Trump To Reconsider As GOP Lawmakers, Allies Mount Effort To Stop Tariffs.*** [The Hill](#) (3/5, Fabian) reports the President "is facing mounting pressure from Republicans in Congress and business groups to go back on his decision," and [Politico](#) (3/5, Bade, Palmer) that "Republicans are frantically lobbying" the President "to reconsider."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/5, story 2, 2:50, Garrett), which referred to "a rare public split" between the Trump and Speaker Ryan, noted a Ryan spokeswoman said the Wisconsin lawmaker "is urging the White House to not advance with this plan. The new tax reform law has boosted the economy, and we certainly don't want to jeopardize those gains." White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders was asked to comment, and told reporters, "We have a great relationship with Speaker Ryan. We're going to continue to have one. But that doesn't mean we have to agree on everything. The President has been committed and talked about this for many years."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/5, Decker), [National Review](#) (3/5, Crowe), [US News & World Report](#) (3/5, Levy), [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/5, Hughes) and [Axios](#) (3/5, Swan), among other news outlets, run similar accounts of Ryan's criticism, while, [The Hill](#) (3/5, Zanona) notes Ryan's office also "blasted out an email earlier Monday highlighting a [news article](#) that attributed a drop in the stock markets to Trump's tariffs announcement." The [Washington Times](#) (3/5, Miller) says "the White House...played down the rift," and [The Hill](#) (3/5, Fabian) that Sanders "scoffed" at Republicans who claim to be surprised about Trump's trade views. Said Sanders, "I

think they should have been well-aware. This is, again, something the president hasn't been shy about."

The Washington Post (3/5, Werner) says "congressional Republicans are maneuvering to stop...Trump from levying harsh tariffs on steel and aluminum imports," with "members of the House Ways and Means Committee...circulating a letter arguing against the tariffs" and "high-ranking Senate Republicans" voicing "their opposition." The Post adds that "it's unclear whether the GOP pushback will have any effect on Trump," and remarks on the fact that "for all of the controversies Trump has faced, the tariffs decision marks one of few times he has taken a step that runs directly counter to Republicans' legislative and economic goals."

The Washington Examiner (3/5, Lawler) reports "House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady said Monday that he and other House Republicans will ask...Trump to exempt some countries from promised steel and aluminum tariffs, but stopped short of suggesting that Congress could pursue a legislative response." Pressed on the latter option, Brady said, "My view is we stay focused on helping the president tailor these tariffs to the maximum effect."

Roll Call (3/5, McPherson) reports, meanwhile, that "Congress is unlikely to act before the president's plan takes effect," but "congressional Republicans are considering actions they might be able to take down the line to subvert the administration's trade policy." Potential actions "include explore possible changes to the provision of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 – known as Section 232 – that allows the president to impose unlimited tariffs if a federal investigation determines it poses a threat to national security."

Also yesterday, Bloomberg News (3/5, Edgerton) reports, Sen. Mike Lee "tweeted about his bill to limit the president's ability to impose tariffs without approval from Congress," writing, "In a government system with checks and balances, the President should not have the power to unilaterally levy or alter tariffs."

Rep. Jackie Walorski said on CNBC's Closing Bell (3/5), "My district is in danger right now of losing bonuses from tax reform that they were given because the economy is booming. We all know we're on this track that's very positive: regulation reform, tax reform, companies expanding, but in my district...when the President started talking 25 percent here and 10 percent there, in the RV industry, the recreational vehicle, boating, trailer manufacturing – we have one of the largest manufacturing districts – employees right now aren't looking at bonuses, they're looking at jobs hung up, jobs potentially leaving, orders in the queue, expansion plans downsized. There's a cost to this. All I'm saying is let's be balanced."

Townhall (3/5, Pavlich) reports "it isn't just politicians expressing concern. Conservative, grassroots organizations are as well," and USA Today (3/5, Jackson) that "many Republican allies of Trump oppose the tariff plan." Said David McIntosh, president of the "anti-regulation" Club for Growth, "For every steel worker job that might be saved because of a

tariff, our country will lose even more American jobs in auto plants, construction, and so many other industries." McIntosh also said that "tariffs will also harm the pro-growth effects of the tax cuts, stall the economy, incite a trade war, and help hand the (2018 congressional) election to the Democrats."

Max Boot, in a Washington Post (3/5) column titled "Imposing Tariffs Is Stupid Policy," bemoans the fact that "Trump has loudly and repeatedly signaled his intention to abandon more than 70 years of America's commitment to free trade" and that "welcomes a trade war – he says that 'trade wars are good, and easy to win' – but no serious economist would agree. Neither does Wall Street."

**Stocks Finish Higher.** The New York Times (3/5, Swanson, Landler, Haberman) reports that one of Trump's "all-important barometers – the stock market – rebounded on Monday after falling sharply immediately after the announcement of the tariffs last week as the Republican dissent fueled optimism that Mr. Trump would ultimately reverse course." The Times adds that "a person close to the White House said that the president was itching to impose tariffs, and that Monday's stock market rebound had reassured Mr. Trump that he was in the right."

CNBC reported "stocks rose on Monday, erasing earlier losses, as worries about a potential trade war waned." The Dow "closed 336.70 points higher at 24,874.76" and the S&P 500 "rose 1.1 percent to 2,720.94 after briefly trading lower." Harley-Davidson, "a closely watched stock amid the tariff news, rose 2.4 percent." The Nasdaq "advanced 1 percent to close at 7,330.70." Noting Trump's comments on NAFTA, CNBC added that he "appeared to be opening the door for negotiations on tariffs," while Ryan expressed his opposition to the President's plans. The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Wursthorn, Kantchev) runs a similar story under the headline "US Stocks Higher As Trade-War Fears Ease," though Bloomberg News (3/4, Potter, Haigh) says investors "continued fretting about the potential for a full-fledged trade war."

**Europe Could Retaliate Against Harley-Davidson, Kentucky Bourbon, Levi's.** The Washington Post (3/5, McAuley) reports European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker has already spoken of "potential consequences" for Trump's move, including "tariffs on a number of American products that included Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Kentucky bourbon and Levi's blue jeans." Said Juncker, "We can also do stupid." A "European official speaking on the condition of anonymity" tells the Post, "Those were just examples. ... The list has been in preparation for some time, and of course more products are potentially to be targeted. Basically, it's more or less one-third agricultural products, one-third steel- and aluminum-related products, and one-third other products."

As ABC World News Tonight (3/5, story 4, 2:05, Muir) put it, that would be "bourbon from Senate Leader Mitch McConnell's home state of Kentucky. Harley-Davidson motorcycles, made in...Ryan's home state of Wisconsin, and jeans from Levi-Strauss, which just happens to be

headquartered in Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco district."

**Hill Analysis: Tariffs Could Boost Trump In Rustbelt In 2020.** The Hill (3/5, Stange) reports "Trump's proposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports horrify Republican leaders in Congress – but they could yet pay political dividends" for him, as the move "has significant appeal in the Rust Belt states that were pivotal to his shock 2016 election win." In fact, "some Democrats in the region worry that senior figures in their party, especially those whose bases are in affluent coastal cities, are underestimating the political potency of Trump's announcement." Already, "some prominent Democrats from industrial states have backed Trump on the tariffs, including Sen. Bob Casey (Pa.) and Reps. Tim Ryan and Marci Kaptur, both of Ohio." Moreover, "the nation's largest federation of unions, the AFL-CIO, also welcomed Trump's proposal."

**Examiner's Wegmann: Navarro "A Democrat" And "A Political Opportunist."** Philip Wegmann writes in the Washington Examiner (3/5, Wegmann) that Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro "is a smart man, at least on paper," as well as "a Democrat" who "ran for office in San Diego, Calif., three times on a Democratic ticket, losing each race." Wegmann adds that "liberal ideas animate his thinking," and "more than anything" he is "is a political opportunist," having gone "from liberal, anti-trade Democrat to...Trump's chief trade advisor." To Wegmann, "So far, the economy has been this president's saving grace. The tariffs will put an end to that."

Yesterday morning, Navarro said on  Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/5), "The mission here is to save our aluminum and steel industries for the purposes of the preserving our national security and our economic security. That's what all of this is about. We have imports coming in across the globe threatening those two industries. As the President said, we can't have a country without an aluminum steel industry."

**WSJournal, ABC News Highlight Study Finding Tariffs Will Kill 146,000 US Jobs.** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/5) criticizes Commerce Secretary Ross' statements indicating tariffs on steel and aluminum imports will have little effect on US consumers. The Journal quotes Ross as saying, "I just bought a can of Campbell's soup today at the 7-Eleven. It was \$1.99 for the can. There's about 10 cents worth of tin plate steel in this can. So if it goes up 25%, that's a tiny fraction of one penny. That's not a noticeable thing." The Journal, however, goes on to note a study by Joseph Francois and Laura Baughman released by the Washington-based Trade Partnership, which found the new tariffs will lead to a net loss of 179,000 US jobs.

ABC World News Tonight (3/5, story 4, 2:05, Muir) also remarked on the "new analysis...by the non-partisan Trade Partnership," which "projects the Trump tariffs on steel and aluminum would result in a net loss of 146,000 American jobs in a single year."

**Trump: Obama Launched Russia Investigation To Aid Hillary Clinton.**

USA Today (3/5, Jackson) reports that in a tweet Monday, President Trump argued that former President Obama and his team launched the Russia investigation to aid Hillary Clinton's campaign, "describing it as a scandal bigger than Watergate." Trump tweeted, "Why did the Obama Administration start an investigation into the Trump Campaign (with zero proof of wrongdoing) long before the Election in November? ... Wanted to discredit so Crooked H would win. ... Unprecedented. Bigger than Watergate! Plus, Obama did NOTHING about Russian meddling." Former CIA Director Brennan replied in a tweet, telling Trump that his claim is "a great example of your paranoia, constant misrepresentation of the facts, and increased anxiety and panic (rightly so) about the Mueller investigation. ... When will those in Congress and the 30 percent of Americans who still support you realize you are a charlatan?"

Politico (3/5, Nelson) says Trump "has made a habit of lashing out at Obama and of complaining about the ongoing investigations," which he has labeled as a "witch hunt." His tweet Monday runs "counter to public reporting that Obama's Justice Department was in the midst of investigating the Russian connections of Trump campaign advisers Carter Page and George Papadopoulos as the 2016 campaign was ongoing." The AP (3/5, Tucker, Woodward) says Trump "has given a problematic account of how the Russia investigation began." The AP says that despite Trump's "conspiratorial tone, it's not unusual for investigations to start without proof. They tend to start with suspicions." Moreover, there has been "no evidence" that Obama "used this matter to try to help Clinton in the election."

***Australian Diplomat Who Prompted FBI's Russia Investigation Has Ties To Clinton.*** The Hill (3/5, Solomon, Spann) reports that former Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, "whose tip in 2016 prompted the Russia-Trump investigation, previously arranged one of the largest foreign donations to Bill and Hillary Clinton's charitable efforts, documents show." Downer's "role in securing \$25 million in aid from his country to help the Clinton Foundation fight AIDS is chronicled in decade-old government memos archived on the Australian foreign ministry's website." Downer who now serves as Australia's ambassador to London, "provided the account of a conversation with Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos at a London bar in 2016 that became the official reason the FBI opened the Russia counterintelligence probe."

Sean Hannity said on Fox News' Hannity (3/5), "You start connecting the dots and you can begin to see Clinton has her hands in everything here. All of the evidence that was used to start and further the Russia investigation all came from cronies and associates – whether people that were being paid by the Clintons or knew the Clintons."

***Judicial Watch Sues DOJ For Records Regarding Bruce Ohr.*** The Daily Caller (3/5, Ross) reports that Judicial Watch "is suing the Department of Justice for records regarding Bruce Ohr, the recently-demoted DOJ official who met with dossier author Christopher Steele prior to the 2016 election."



The conservative watchdog is seeking "records of Ohr's contacts with Steele as well as with employees of Fusion GPS, the opposition research firm that commissioned the dossier." In addition, Judicial Watch wants "Ohr's calendar entries and all communications between the attorney general's office and Fusion GPS and Nellie Ohr."

***House Republicans Back Away From Plans To Hold Bannon In Contempt.***

The Washington Post (3/5, Demirjian) reports that people from both parties with knowledge of the House Intelligence Committee's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election say House Republicans "are backing away from plans to potentially hold former White House strategist Stephen K. Bannon in contempt of Congress for refusing to fully comply with" a panel subpoena. According to people familiar with the matter, there has been "zero urgency to pursue further action against Bannon or even discuss the matter with House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), whose buy-in is critical to issuing such a citation." With "committee Republicans pushing for a fast close to the Russia probe, many panel members doubt that Ryan and [Rep. K. Michael] Conaway [the top Republican in the investigation] will actually deliver on a contempt citation for Bannon."

**Tillerson: "We Have More To Do" To Address Russian Disinformation.**

Rich Edson reported on Fox News' Special Report (3/5) that Congress allocated \$120 million to the State Department to "counter foreign efforts to interfere in American politics. The Department has spent none of that money...according to the New York Times." The Department's Global Engagement Center (GEC) "only last week secured \$40 million of that dedicated funding." A senior State Department official says the GEC has started assigning that \$40 million to projects, and "has, in the meantime, used other funding to counter misinformation." Meanwhile, Edson noted that the Times also reported that "none" of the GEC's 23 analysts speak Russian. A "senior State Department official counters that the acting coordinator and deputy coordinator speak Russian, and the chief of staff is an expert on Russia." While meeting with foreign ministers from three Baltic states, Secretary of State Tillerson "acknowledged his department must better address Russia's disinformation campaign." Fox showed Tillerson stating, "We have more to do."

***Putin: Russia Will Never Extradite Those Indicted For Election Meddling.***

Fox News' Special Report (3/5) reported Russian President Vladimir Putin says his country "will never extradite" the 13 Russians indicted by the US for meddling in the 2016 US presidential election. In a TV interview, Putin said he has no idea what those individuals did, and claimed they don't represent Russia.

***Woman Jailed In Thailand Seeks US Asylum, Claims To Have Evidence Of Russian Interference.*** CNN's Situation Room (3/5) reported Anastasia Vashukevich, a woman from Belarus currently imprisoned in Bangkok, is seeking US asylum, claiming to have evidence of Russian meddling in the 2016 election. Correspondent Ivan Watson spoke to Vashukevich, reporting

that "she says that she witnessed meetings between the Russian billionaire Oleg Deripaska and at least three Americans, who she refused to name. She says they discussed plans to affect the US elections, but she wouldn't give any further information because she fears she could be deported back to Russia." The New York Times (3/5, Paddock) reports that Vashukevich said Monday that she has "more than 16 hours of audio recordings that could help shed light on Russian meddling in United States elections."

***WTimes Analysis: Fear About Integrity Of Nation's Election System At An All-Time High.*** The Washington Times (3/5, Boylan) reports that "fear and confusion over the integrity of the nation's election systems are running at an all-time high." While Democrats "say the Trump administration has not taken the threat seriously enough," Republicans blame the Obama Administration "for failing to act in 2016." Meanwhile, technology experts "fault the Department of Homeland Security and social media companies for failing to get a handle on the threat."

### **With Trump Now A Candidate, Federal Employees Face Political Restrictions.**

The Washington Post (3/5, Yoder) reports that the Office of Special Counsel, "a federal agency that enforces the Hatch Act limits on allowable political activities by federal employees, said Monday that additional restrictions now apply because President Trump is officially running for reelection in 2020. For Hatch Act purposes, that occurred last week with the appointment of Brad Parscale...to manage the president's reelection bid. The OSC had said earlier that Trump's filing of campaign paperwork a year ago with the Federal Election Commission had not met that threshold." The "additional restrictions apply to most employees only when they are on duty and/or in a federal workplace: They may not engage in political activity directed at the success or failure of such a party, candidate or group."

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

#### **New York Times.**

***"Donald Trump's Tunnel Vision."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/5) decries President Trump's decision to urge House Speaker Ryan "to scrap start-up money for an additional rail tunnel between New York and New Jersey, a project essential to the economic health not only of those two states but of the entire country." Citing its own reporting and that of the Washington Post, the Times says Trump "did it to spite the Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, whose sin is failure to fall in lock step with Mr. Trump on a variety of issues. This is foolishness." The Times adds that this is "but one instance among many of the president showing zero concern for the region and the city that created his wealth and his reputation."

***"Demagogues Win As Europe's Populist Tide Sweeps Italy."*** A New York Times (3/5) editorial says Italy's elections were "the latest powerful wave

in a tidal turn of anti-immigrant, anti-European Union and antidemocratic fervor that has ravaged European politics." The Italian election, it adds, "was a stinging rejection of traditional parties, and of national leadership that has been frustrated by a flood of migrants from Africa and the Middle East and stymied by years of stagnation."

### **Washington Post.**

**"Dodd-Frank Might Just Survive Republicans. Good."** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5) says that while President Trump said early in his Administration that he intended to do "a big number on Dodd-Frank," Republicans can change the law "only to the extent consistent with attracting sufficient Democratic votes." The Post adds that the "lowest common denominator may be" a bill "moving through the Senate with bipartisan support," to "grant regulatory relief to small banks while letting some big ones, but not the biggest, go along for the ride." The Post questions the wisdom and the necessity of the measure, and expresses concern that it "sets a precedent for the biggest institutions to demand lower capital requirements the next time Congress takes up the issue." However, for now, the bill "could represent the high-water mark of this Republican deregulatory wave," and albeit "weakened, the basic Dodd-Frank regulatory framework might just survive two years of Republican control of the presidency and Congress, which certainly beats the alternative."

**"It's Up to Merkel And Macron To Rescue Democracy In Europe."** A Washington Post (3/5) editorial says Italy's election "delivered another body blow to Europe's already-wobbly democratic center." The "good news of the weekend was that a new coalition government" led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel "was finally approved by members of her partner Social Democratic Party." The Post argues that "it now falls to Ms. Merkel to seek with [French President Emmanuel] Macron reforms that will promote growth in struggling EU countries such as Italy, while continuing to defend liberal democratic principles."

**"Larry Hogan Leads A Breakthrough For Metro."** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5) says that after appearing to "regard subways and buses as white elephants sponging up cash better used to build roads" during his campaign, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan "has made a break with his past and can credibly claim to have been the decisive factor in turning the regional tide in favor of a workable bailout for Metro, the national capital area's ailing transit system." The Post says the burden now rests with "Republicans in Richmond, whose 66-seat majority in Virginia's House of Delegates was cut to 51 seats in last fall's elections." They "would be wise to take a cue from Mr. Hogan's leadership."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**"Warren Democrats For Wall Street."** A Wall Street Journal (3/5) editorial says Senate progressives, led by Sens. Elizabeth Warren and

Sherrod Brown say a Senate bill to grant regulatory relief to small banks is a gift to Wall Street. However, citing the bill's 12 Democratic co-sponsors, the Journal calls it progress that some Democrats are breaking with Warren.

***"Treasury's Qualcomm Reversal."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/5) editorializes that Cfius' decision on Broadcom's proposed acquisition of Qualcomm was correct and marks a reversal of the Treasury Department's position of last week that it would not postpone the shareholder vote. The Journal argues that if Broadcom wants to obtain Cfius approval, it must show that its bid for Qualcomm will not threaten US national security.

***"Professor Ross's Soup Can Economics."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/5) criticizes Commerce Secretary Ross' statements indicating tariffs on steel and aluminum imports will have little effect on US consumers. The Journal quotes **Ross** as saying, "I just bought a can of Campbell's soup today at the 7-Eleven. It was \$1.99 for the can. There's about 10 cents worth of tin plate steel in this can. So if it goes up 25%, that's a tiny fraction of one penny. That's not a noticeable thing." The Journal, however, goes on to note a study by Joseph Francois and Laura Baughman released by the Washington-based Trade Partnership, which found the new tariffs will lead to a net loss of 179,000 US jobs.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

Trump Tariffs Spark GOP Rift

US Government Intervenes In Broadcom's Bid For Qualcomm

Can a Onetime Nader-Supporting "Bomb Thrower" Win Arizona's Senate Seat? Democrats Hope So

Next Up for Amazon: Checking Accounts

#### ***New York Times:***

Trump Reaffirms Commitment to Tariffs but Opens Door to Compromise

Trump's Hopes of Being the "Neutral Guy" in the Mideast Seem Long Gone

Behind Public Persona, the Real Xi Jinping Is a Guarded Secret

Trying Again, de Blasio Names a New Schools Chancellor

#### ***Washington Post:***

Trump's Tariffs Face GOP Pushback

Mayor Knew Of Transfer, Says Ex-DC Schools Chief

Israel's "Dreamers" In Limbo

Abortion Bills Make Down Syndrome A Focus Of Fight

Populist Wins Tip Europe Into "Uncharted Territory"

Ex-Trump Aide Vows To Defy Mueller

#### ***Financial Times:***

Italy On Course For Clash With EU As Voters Boost Populists Parties

[US Offers UK Airlines Worse Deal After Brexit As Ownership Clouds Open Skies](#)

***Washington Times:***

[Obama Policies To End 'Schoolhouse-To-Jailhouse Pipeline' Helped Keep Nikolas Cruz Off Police Radar](#)

[Fear, Confusion Over Integrity Of U.S. Election Systems At All-Time High Ahead Of Midterms](#)

[Democrats Fielding — And Funding — Serious Challengers In GOP Strongholds](#)

[China's Economic Lifeline For Greece Tangles Political Relations With EU Judge Rules Trump's DACA Phaseout Legal](#)

[Sam Nunberg, Ex-Trump Aide, Walks Back Refusal To Cooperate With Mueller Subpoena](#)

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Russia Investigation-Nunberg; Nor'easter; Weather Forecast; Tariff Policy-Reactions; Trump-Gridiron Dinner; WV-Teachers Strike; Florida-Teacher Controversy; UK-Former Russian Spy Hospitalized; Oscars Award Stolen; SkyWest Mid-Flight Incident; NYC-Deadly Crash; Brooklyn-Apartment Fire.

**CBS:** Russian Investigation-Nunberg; Tariff Policy-Reactions; SkyWest Mid-Flight Incident; Weather Forecast; UK-Former Russian Spy Hospitalized; WV-Teachers Strike; Syria Conflict; FTC-Scam Risk; Oscars Award Stolen.

**NBC:** Nor'easter; Weather Forecast; WV Teachers Strike; Russia Investigation-Nunberg; Washington-Avalanche Warning; UK-Former Russian Spy Hospitalized; Florida-Teacher Controversy; Hackers Target CPA Firms; China-Airport Roof Collapse; Oscars Award Stolen.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

Russia Investigation-Nunberg – 8 minutes, 45 seconds

Nor'easter/Weather Forecast – 7 minutes, 50 seconds

Tariff Policy – 4 minutes, 55 seconds

WV-Teachers – 4 minutes 15 seconds

Oscars Award Stolen – 4 minutes

UK-Former Russian Spy Hospitalized – 4 minutes

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Russia Investigation-Nunberg; Nor'easter; Florida-Gun Legislation; Oregon-Gun Sales Legislation.

**CBS:** Nor'easter; Florida-Gun Control Legislation; Russia Investigation-Nunberg; Tariff Policy-Reactions; Wall Street.

**FOX:** Florida-Gun Control Legislation; Florida School Shooting Investigation; WV-Teachers Strike; DC-DACA Protests; Tariff Policy-Trump; Senator Cochran Announces Retirement; Bill Cosby Case; Organ Donations Increase.

**NPR:** Tariff Policy-Trump; Senator Cochran Announces Retirement; UK-Former Russian Spy Hospitalized; Florida-Gun Control Legislation; Sherman Alexi-Sexual Harassment Allegations; Wall Street.

## **Washington Schedule**

---

### **Today's Events In Washington.**

#### **White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — President Trump meets Swedish PM Lofven at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

**US Senate:** 9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on worldwide threats – Hearing on 'Worldwide Threats', with testimony from Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats; and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley Jr. Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on protecting e-commerce consumers from counterfeits – Hearing on 'Protecting E-commerce Consumers from Counterfeits', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of International Affairs and Trade Kimberly Gianopoulos; Customs and Border Protection Office of Trade Executive Assistant Commissioner Brenda Smith; Consumer Product Safety Commission Office of Import Surveillance Director Jim Joholske; and UL Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial and Legal Officer Terrence Brady. Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 215, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Dr. James Reilly II to be U.S. Geological Survey Director. Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC [www.energy.senate.gov](http://www.energy.senate.gov).

2:00 PM House / Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees hear legislative presentation from vets groups – House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs joint hearing on 'Legislative Presentations of Multiple VSOs', with testimony from Paralyzed Veterans of America National President David Zurfluh; American Veterans National Commander Marion Polk; Vietnam Veterans of America National President John Rowan; American Ex-Prisoners of War National Commander Charles Susino Jr.; Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Chief Policy Officer Melissa Bryant; Association of the United States Navy National Executive Director Rear Adm. (Ret.) Christopher Cole; Wounded Warrior Project Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations Rene Bardorf; National Guard Association of the United States President Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Roy Robinson; and Non Commissioned Officers Association President and National Commander Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (Ret.) Vincent Patton III. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:30 PM Senate Intelligence CLOSED hearing –

<https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/hearings/closed-briefing-intelligence-matters-210>. Location: 219 Hart Senate Office Building.

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs – Seapower Subcommittee hearing on ‘Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Programs’, with testimony from Naval Air Systems Commander Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags; U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation Lt. Gen. Steven Rudder; and Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Director of Air Warfare (OPNAV N98) Rear Adm. Scott Conn. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 232A, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

**US House:** 10:00 AM Labor Secretary Acosta testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘FY19 Budget Hearing – Department of Labor’, with testimony from Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta. Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee ‘FY19 Budget Hearing – Department of Treasury’, with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2359, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on reducing the DOI maintenance backlog – Federal Lands Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Exploring Innovative Solutions to Reduce the Department of the Interior’s Maintenance Backlog.’ Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Armed Services Committee hearing on national security challenges and U.S. military activities in Africa – Hearing on ‘National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activities in Africa’, with testimony from U.S. Africa Command Commander Gen. Thomas Waldhauser. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittees joint hearing on rural broadband – Health and Technology Subcommittee and Agriculture, Energy, and Trade Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Disconnected: Rural Broadband and the Business Case for Small Carriers’, with testimony from Womble Bond Dickinson associate Erin Fitzgerald (on behalf of Rural Wireless Association); Competitive Carriers Association Senior Vice President for Legislative Affairs Tim Donovan; Bloosurf co-founder Paul Carliner (on behalf of Blooston Rural Carriers); and Western Telecommunications Alliance Vice President of Government Affairs Derrick Owens. Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Science subcommittee hearing on future of U.S. fusion energy research – Energy Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Future of U.S. Fusion Energy Research’, with testimony from ITER Organization Director-General Dr. Bernard Bigot; Department of Energy Office of Science Acting Associate Director of Fusion Energy Sciences Dr. James Van Dam; General Atomics Magnetic Fusion Energy Division Director of Advanced Fusion Systems Dr. Mickey Wade; and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory National Ignition Facility Director Dr. Mark Herrmann. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Interior, Energy, and Environment Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on the NTIA – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘Oversight of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’, with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information David Redl. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on ‘Strengthening Welfare to Work With Child Care’ – Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee hearing on ‘Strengthening Welfare to Work With Child Care’, with testimony from Alliance for Early Success Deputy Director Helene Stebbins; Louisiana Association of Business and Industry Director of Education and Workforce Development Brigitte Nieland; Campagna Center President and CEO Tammy Mann; and Mississippi Governor’s Education and Workforce Development Policy Advisor Dr. Laurie Smith. Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee marks up its views and estimates letter – Markup hearing on ‘Views and Estimates of the Committee on Financial Services on Matters to be Set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019’. Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on class-action lawsuits against ICF/IID – Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice hearing on ‘Examining Class Action Lawsuits Against Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID)’, with testimony from parents Martha Bryant, Caroline Lahrmann, and Peter Kinzler; and Center for Public Representation Director of Advocacy Alison Barkoff. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington,



DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to House committee on administration's infrastructure proposal – Hearing on 'Examining the Administration's Infrastructure Proposal', with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC

<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing. Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

[www.democraticwhip.gov/](http://www.democraticwhip.gov/) <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM House debates Comprehensive Regulatory Review Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 4607 – Comprehensive Regulatory Review Act', plus consideration of 'H.R. 2226 – Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act', as amended, 'H.R. 4725 – Community Bank Reporting Relief Act', 'H.R. 4768 – National Strategy for Combating the Financing of Transnational Criminal Organizations Act', as amended, 'H.R. 4986 – RAY BAUM'S Act of 2018', as amended, 'H.R. 1132 – Political Appointee Burrowing Prevention Act', as amended, 'H.R. 4043 – Whistleblower Protection Extension Act of 2017', as amended, 'S. 188 – EGO Act', as amended, and 'H.R. 3737 – Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act of 2017' under suspension of the rules. Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

<http://www.house.gov/>. 10:00 a.m. for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on U.S. Navy budget request for seapower and projection forces – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of the Navy FY 2019 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition James Geurts; Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems Vice Adm. William Merz; and Marine Corps Combat Development Command Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert Walsh. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC

[www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM House / Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees hear legislative presentation from vets groups – House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs joint hearing on 'Legislative Presentations of Multiple VSOs', with testimony from Paralyzed Veterans of America National President David Zurfluh; American Veterans National Commander Marion Polk; Vietnam Veterans of America National President John Rowan; American Ex-Prisoners of War National Commander Charles Susino Jr.; Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Chief Policy Officer Melissa Bryant; Association of the United States Navy National Executive Director Rear Adm. (Ret.) Christopher Cole; Wounded Warrior Project Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations Rene Bardorf; National Guard Association of the United States President Brig.

Gen. (Ret.) Roy Robinson; and Non Commissioned Officers Association President and National Commander Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (Ret.) Vincent Patton III. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee holds roundtable with Jerusalem mayor – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform National Security Subcommittee holds roundtable with Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2247, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

3:30 PM EESI co-hosts briefing on 'Building Climate Resilience in the Real Estate Sector' – 'Building Climate Resilience in the Real Estate Sector' Citizens Climate Lobby / Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing, on 'the ways the public and private sectors can collaborate to develop the policy tools necessary to safeguard America's buildings and homes from future natural disasters'. Congressional speakers and co-hosts are bipartisan Reps. Charlie Crist and Lee Zeldin, with panel featuring realtor and St. Petersburg, FL, Council Member Brandi Gabbard, National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Vice President Ryan Colker, and New Jersey Association of Floodplain Management Legislative Chair John Miller. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-201, Washington, DC [www.eesi.org/](http://www.eesi.org/) <https://twitter.com/eesionline> #eesitalk

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on 'Marine Corps Readiness Posture' – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on 'Marine Corps Readiness Posture', with testimony from U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations Lt. Gen. Brian Beaudreault, and Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics Lt. Gen. Michael Dana; and Marine Forces Reserve Commander and Marine Forces North Commander Lt. Gen. Rex McMillian. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

**Other:** AIPAC Policy Conference concludes – American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference – 'preeminent annual gathering of the pro-Israel community' – concludes. Speakers during conference include Vice President Mike Pence, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Education Minister and Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett, and Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley, USAID Administrator Mark Green, House Chief Deputy Majority Whip Patrick McHenry, Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin, bipartisan Reps. Anthony Brown, Ted Deutch, Eliot Engel, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Trent Kelly, Brian Mast, Seth Moulton, Stephanie Murphy, Jimmy Panetta, Robert Pittenger, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ed Royce, Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, Scott Taylor, and Lee Zeldin, Estonian Foreign Affairs Minister Sven Mikser, Albanian PM Edi Rama, Togolese Foreign Affairs Minister Robert Dussey, Chief Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, Arizona

State Rep. Daniel Hernandez Jr., and Let America Vote founder Jason Kander. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC [www.policyconference.org](http://www.policyconference.org) <https://twitter.com/AIPAC> #AIPAC2018

9:00 AM 'Preventing Conflict to Create Pathways for Peace' U.N. and World Bank Group report launch at USIP – 'Preventing Conflict to Create Pathways for Peace' United Nations and World Bank Group report launch, hosted by the U.S. Institute of Peace. Report identifies 'significant policy lessons to drive future conflict operations and to help recognize opportunities for defense, diplomacy, and development to contribute to mutual success'. Speakers include United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, World Bank Fragility, Conflict & Violence Senior Director Franck Bousquet and Chief Technical Specialist Alexandre Marc, USAID Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Kate Somvongsiri, Somali Women and Human Rights Development Minister Deqa Yasin, U.N./WB Partnership on Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations Advisor Jago Salmon, and USIP President Nancy Lindborg. Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org) <https://twitter.com/USIP>

10:00 AM VA Secretary Shulkin and AMVETS leaders announce new vet health care plan – Department of Veterans Affairs and American Veterans senior leadership hold press conference to present 'a bold new plan that will address gaps in veteran mental healthcare, the responsible expansion of VA care in the community, improving the VA polytrauma/traumatic brain injury system of care, implementation of President Donald Trump's executive order, and drastically reducing veteran suicide in the U.S.'. Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, Veterans Health Administration Executive in Charge Carolyn Clancy, and AMVETS National Commander Marion Polk, National Executive Director Joseph Chenelly, and Chief Medical Executive Lana McKenzie speak. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.va.gov/> <https://twitter.com/DeptVetAffairs>.

12:30 PM USIP discussion on 'Black Leadership in Advancing International Peace and Security' – 'Black Leadership in Advancing International Peace and Security' U.S. Institute of Peace discussion on how African Americans have impacted the fields of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, featuring former U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, South Africa, the United Nations, and Australia Amb. Edward Perkins and former U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Amb. Linda Thomas-Greenfield. Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org) <https://twitter.com/USIP>

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

*Stephen Colbert:* "Robert Mueller issued a subpoena to [former Trump aide Sam] Nunberg to get him to testify about the Russia investigation and not

only did Nunberg say he won't show up, he said 'he was planning to go on Bloomberg TV and tear up the subpoena.' No, no, no, no – smart thinking. Do it on Bloomberg. No witnesses!"

**Stephen Colbert:** "But that was just the beginning. Nunberg took over cable news like a car chase. He was on MSNBC at 2:45, CNN at 3:30, CNN again at 4:00. I believe at 5:00 he called into HGTV to incriminate himself on 'Flip or Flop'. I'm pretty sure, after Mueller gets through with him, it's going to be flip."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Last night's Oscars broadcast was over three-and-a-half hours long. Wow. To put that in perspective, that's longer than most jobs last in the White House."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "The news out of Washington, I read that President Trump is on a diet and has been trying to eat more salad. When he first ordered one at the White House, the kitchen was excited because they thought the Obamas were back."

**Seth Meyers:** "According to the New York Times,...China's President Xi Jinping is now President for life. President Trump jokingly told donors this weekend, 'Maybe we'll give that a shot someday.' That's great, but first, why not try being President for a full week?"

**Seth Meyers:** "According to sources, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly is frustrated with Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, and questions what they do during the day. I'm going to say nothing and homework?"

**Seth Meyers:** "President Trump said today that he's not backing down on his decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, adding that the US has been ripped off by virtually every country in the world. For example, Wakanda. Turns out they've been hoarding vibranium for years."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior

News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** Aaron Thiele[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt [REDACTED] (b)(6); Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_werner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Leila Getto[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; Luke Bullock[wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov]; Mike Argo[michael\_argo@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Zinke[cdr06@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]

**Cc:** ryanzinke [REDACTED] (b)(6)

**From:** Boulton, Caroline

**Sent:** 2018-03-06T17:06:53-05:00

**Importance:** Normal

**Subject:** Electronic Briefing Book: 3.7.18

**Received:** 2018-03-06T17:13:10-05:00

[Assistant Secretary PMB Monthly Meeting 3-7-18.docx](#)

[BGCA Native One-Pager.docx](#)

[BGCA Native Adaptations BGCACurriculum 2017.pdf](#)

[Briefing Memo for Secretary March 7 and 12 Budget Preparation Meetings.docx](#)

[Event Memo UK Defra Minister 030218.docx](#)

[Meeting Memo FirstEnergy.docx](#)

[Mtg Memo Boys & Girls Club of America.docx](#)

[OLE Overview wildlife trafficking 03-06-2018 .docx](#)

[3-5-18 National Park Infrastructure Event-Sen Alexander \(1\).docx](#)

[RKZ Daily Schedule 3.7.18.docx](#)

[Draft Trip 3.08-3.10 Montana.pdf](#)

All,

Attached and below are tomorrow's schedule and briefing materials. The draft itinerary for the upcoming Montana visit is also attached.

Best,  
Caroline

#### **Daily Schedule**

- 9:00am**            **Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Magallanes, Argo, Rigas, Hommel*
- 9:30am**            **Meeting with the Deputy Secretary**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary*
- 10:00am**          **Depart DOI en route Capitol**
- 10:30am**          **National Parks Infrastructure Event with Sen. Alexander**  
Location: 428 Dirksen SOB  
*Staff: Chambers, Swift*
- 11:00am**          **Depart Capitol en route DOI**
- 11:45am**          **Meeting with FirstEnergy**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: DeVito*
- 12:45pm**          **Lunch**

**1:00pm**            **Meeting with U.K. Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**  
**Michael Gove**

Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Domenech, Sheehan, Senhadji*

**2:00pm**            **Potential Call with Governor Cuomo (NY)**

Location: Secretary's Office

**2:30pm**            **Meeting with Boys and Girls Club**

Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Cassidy*

**3:00pm**            **Monthly Meeting with ASPMB**

Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Cameron, Magallanes, Hommel*

**4:00pm**            **Budget Prep**

Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Magallanes, Cameron, Tanner, Chambers, Ferriter, Flanagan, Salotti, Moss*

--

Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403





However, DOI standard compliant helicopters have had no accidents in 42 years, whereas non-compliant helicopters in the Gulf of Mexico average 7 crashes per year, for 139 fatalities over 26 years.

**b. ACTIONS TAKEN BY HALLWAY**

Received a briefing from the PMB Office of Aviation Services on why helicopters servicing DOI employees may be held to standards that exceed regular FAA standards.

**c. RECOMMENDATION BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Unknown.

**d. ACTION ITEM FOR SECRETARY (if applicable)**

Not being sought.

**III. DOI needs to be prepared to respond to Congressional inquiries about our land acquisition priority list, even though few funds were requested for federal land acquisition in the FY 2019 President's Budget.**

**a. ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Congress exercises the discretion to appropriate funds for land acquisition in NPS, FWS, and BLM. Congress routinely asks DOI to indicate what our land acquisition priorities might be for those bureaus, regardless of whether we actually requesting any new land acquisition funding in our budget. We will probably be asked to send the Appropriations Committee our FY 2019 priority list sometime in April.

**b. ACTIONS TAKEN BY HALLWAY**

PMB is working with NPS, FWS, and BLM to ensure that lists generated by those bureaus reflect the Secretary's programmatic priorities, such as improving recreational access, protecting wildlife corridors, simplifying the bureau's land management activities, and making management more cost-efficient. Bureau tentative lists will be reviewed and approved by the assistant secretaries before coming to PMB. PMB will arrange detailed briefings for the Deputy Secretary on the priority lists. OCL and Intergovernmental and External Relations will be included in those detailed Deputy Secretary briefings, so we can assess the level and nature of state government and Congressional interest in particular land acquisition possibilities. Once approved by the Deputy Secretary, a final list will be sent to OMB for clearance, and then on to Congress.

**c. RECOMMENDATION BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

He looks forward to reviewing the preliminary bureau lists for policy compatibility.

**d. ACTION ITEM FOR SECRETARY (if applicable)**

None requested.

**IV. DOI needs to send the Appropriations committees an emergency supplemental “operating plan”, which will describe how our bureaus will spend the FY 2018 disaster supplemental funding.**

**a. ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Congress appropriated \$517M to Interior for the disasters. This included \$208M to the NPS for construction and \$50M for State Historic Preservation projects, \$211M to FWS, \$42M to USGS, and \$3M to International and Insular Affairs in response to the hurricanes in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico this past fall. The DOI Inspector General was also provided \$3M in extra funding. The Deputy Secretary will review draft bureau operating plans after bureaus submit them to PMB on March 12. We are asking the bureaus for more detail on their proposed projects than we will provide to OMB and Congress, so as to ensure we can hold the bureaus accountable for spending their money appropriately, while avoiding having DOI’s flexibility unnecessarily limited by the level of detail provided to OMB and Congress. DOI will need to report monthly to OMB and Congress on the progress being made with the emergency funding that has been provided. The general guidance from the Deputy Secretary to the bureaus has been that they should:

- Spend the money promptly, with appropriate financial safeguards.
- Avoid charging unnecessary overhead to projects, so as to get the maximum amount of money to the ground
- Disclose how each bureau proposes to handle overhead costs.
- List rehabilitation/restoration projects in priority order
- Do not attempt to reconstruct facilities that will inevitably be destroyed by the next hurricane that passes through the area
- Rebuild structures so they are hardened, and likely to more successfully resist the next hurricane
- Do not use outdated materials that are subpar by modern standards just to achieve historical accuracy

**b. ACTIONS TAKEN BY HALLWAY**

PMB will elaborate on the Deputy Secretary’s guidance to the bureaus as necessary, paying particular attention to the approach the bureaus take to overhead. In the past, some bureaus have charged overhead rates in the vicinity of 20-40%, greatly diminishing the money that actually gets to the ground. PMB will manage the clearance of the final operating plans through OMB, and ultimately explain and defend them with the Appropriations Committees. PMB will also use the DOI enterprise financial management system, FBMS, to track expenditures of funding on projects or groups of projects, once the operating plans are approved.

**c. RECOMMENDATION BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

He will review and make decisions on the appropriateness of draft bureau operating plans, and regularly monitor progress on operating plan

implementation.

**d. ACTION ITEM FOR SECRETARY (if applicable)**

None requested.

**V. Issue regulations and revise Departmental Manual with respect to DOI grants and cooperative agreements.**

**a. ISSUE BACKGROUND**

DOI has been working for more than a year to ensure we get the most value out of money spent on grants and cooperative agreements. In addition to the routine review of awards, Steve Howke is working up front with the bureaus to shape eligibility and scoring criteria for financial assistance.

We also have an opportunity to leverage an OMB requirement as a tool to put a number of our financial assistance reforms into the Code of Federal Regulations. In 2013, OMB published its Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. This document provided government-wide, streamlined administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for grants and cooperative agreements. Federal agencies were directed to promulgate regulations implementing the policies and procedures, and to identify any exceptions or unique agency conditions. DOI issued a memoranda in 2014 announcing its intention to publish a supplemental regulation, but never completed the task. The supplemental regulation will address the unique needs of DOI's financial assistance programs, for example, by clarifying conflict of interest rules and competitive procedures, and enhancing reporting requirements for land purchased through financial assistance agreements.

**b. ACTIONS TAKEN BY HALLWAY**

PMB/Steve Howke will work with PMB offices to start the process of drafting a proposed rule to be published later in FY2018, to become a final rule early in FY 2019. Conforming changes to the Departmental Manual will follow.

**c. RECOMMENDATION BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Not known.

**d. ACTION ITEM FOR SECRETARY (if applicable)**

None requested.

**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

DATE: March, 5, 2018

THROUGH: Scott Cameron  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Policy, Management and Budget

FROM: Olivia B. Ferriter  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition

SUBJECT: Preparation for FY 2019 Budget Hearings March 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

**I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This memorandum outlines preparations for two hearings on the FY 2019 budget on March 13 and 15, before Senate Energy and Natural Resources and House Natural Resources, respectively. Along with OCL, we are scheduled to meet with you on Wednesday, March 7, and Monday, March 12, to discuss likely issues for these hearings.

Hearings before the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees have also been scheduled for April 11 and May 9, respectively. We will schedule a separate preparation meeting for the Appropriations hearings, closer to those dates.

**II. BACKGROUND**

At the hearings, you will be joined at the witness table by Olivia Ferriter along with Denise Flanagan, the Department's Budget Director. Micah Chambers from OCL will attend and sit behind you at the hearings. All of the budget hearings are open to the media and the public. OCL has the lead for the March 13 and 15 Authorizing Committee (Senate Energy and Natural Resources/House Natural Resources) hearings. PMB has the lead for the later Appropriations Committee hearings.

At the preparation meetings we will review your draft oral statement, which draws from the statement you used at the budget press conference. We will also go through a list of "Hot Topics" likely to be raised at all of your hearings with suggested short answers. Similar to last year's hearing preparation we will have an expanded set of budget Qs and As for your reference, and will discuss likely Member issues for each hearing.

**III. DISCUSSION**

Your first budget hearings are with the Senate and House Authorizing Committees. The Appropriations Committees are working now to finalize their FY 2018 appropriations bills to meet the March 23 expiration date for the current Continuing Resolution. This is why your hearings before the Appropriations Committees on the FY 2019 budget are scheduled later.

The Senate and House authorizing hearings are opportunities to discuss the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund proposal and your reorganization efforts. Although these are budget hearings, similar to last year's hearings, most of the questions will focus on pending policy issues.

The hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018, from 10am to 1pm. This is an opportunity to discuss provisions in the budget relating to Alaska that are a priority to Chairman Murkowski, such as support for NPR-A oil and gas activities and the path forward for the 1002 area. You can expect the following issues to come up: reorganization, infrastructure, the Venting and Flaring Rule, recent Royalty Policy Committee actions, the 2019-2024 five year OCS plan, sage grouse, budgetary impacts on Indian country, and internal management issues including the grants reviews.

The hearing before the House Natural Resources Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2018, from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This is an opportunity to discuss the reorganization effort, in particular the newly revised unified regional boundaries and efforts to reduce the regulatory burden. You can expect questions on energy, sage grouse, program funding levels in general, and internal management issues including the recent resignation of USGS's Murray Hitzman, and grants reviews.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018

**Daily Schedule**

- 9:00am**      **Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting**  
 Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Magallanes, Argo, Rigas, Hommel*
- 9:30am**      **Meeting with the Deputy Secretary**  
 Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary*
- 10:00am**      **Depart DOI en route Capitol**
- 10:30am**      **National Parks Infrastructure Event with Sen. Alexander**  
 Location: 428 Dirksen SOB  
*Staff: Chambers, Swift*
- 11:00am**      **Depart Capitol en route DOI**
- 11:45am**      **Meeting with FirstEnergy**  
 Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: DeVito*
- 12:45pm**      **Lunch**
- 1:00pm**      **Meeting with U.K. Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Michael Gove**  
 Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff:*
- 2:00pm**      **Potential Call with Governor Cuomo (NY)**  
 Location: Secretary's Office
- 2:30pm**      **Meeting with Boys and Girls Club**  
 Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Cassidy*
- 3:00pm**      **Monthly Meeting with ASPMB**  
 Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Cameron, Magallanes, Hommel*
- 4:00pm**      **Budget Prep**  
 Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Magallanes, Cameron, Tanner, Chambers, Ferriter, Flanagan, Salotti, Moss*
- RON**          **Washington, D.C.**

## Adapted Curriculum for Native Communities

Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) along with the Native Services Unit (NSU) have worked diligently to tailor materials and resources that are relevant to Native Boys & Girls Clubs and their communities. Curricula have been adapted through special initiatives and partnerships to make content more reflective of Native culture and traditions so that youth are immersed in meaningful Club programming. Select curriculum listed below are available online for download, free of charge. Visit [NAClubs.org](http://NAClubs.org) to stay up to date on the resources available for your organization!



### My.Future

My.Future Essentials is an online curriculum created by Boys & Girls Clubs of America to give youth the technology skills they need to thrive in today's digital world. Through personalized and engaging hands-on experiences, My.Future teaches youth valuable digital skills and helps them understand their media world, identify and develop digital interests and earn certifications as they make progress. Through a partnership between BGCA's Native Services Unit and Verizon, the curriculum was reviewed to provide Native Clubs with an adaptation that is more reflective of Native culture. The adaptation was designed to give local Clubs the ability to create their own supplemental activities and to encourage students to explore their own cultural heritage while at the same time increasing their digital literacy.



### SMART Moves: Adapted for Indian Country

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's SMART Moves (Skills Mastery and Resistance Training) prevention/education program addresses problems such as drug and alcohol use and premature sexual activity. SMART Kids was published in March 2003 through a partnership of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Center of Substance Abuse Prevention, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Native American Programs. An advisory group reviewed the program and identified adaptations to make the curriculum more reflective of Native American culture. Due to the flexible nature of SMART Moves, each Tribal community can establish culturally appropriate activities based on their own teachings, stories, history, traditions, ceremonies, and spirituality to accompany and complement the SMART Moves curriculum.



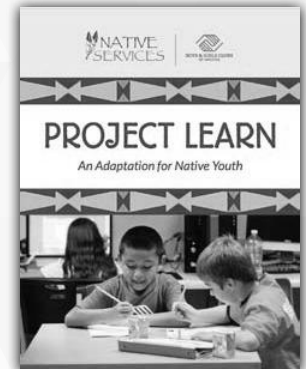
### On the T.R.A.I.L. to Diabetes Prevention

In 2003, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Indian Health Service, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), and Nike, Inc., initiated a prevention program aimed at reducing the onset of type 2 diabetes among Native youth. The program On the T.R.A.I.L. (*Together Raising Awareness for Indian Life*) to Diabetes Prevention is an innovative combination of physical, educational, and nutritional activities. Club members draw from Native traditions and history to learn about nutrition, food choices, media influences and the impact of type 2 diabetes. The program also emphasizes the importance of teamwork and community service. Participants apply decision-making and goal setting skills in the Physical Activity Challenges, and engage in service projects to improve healthy lifestyles in their families and communities.



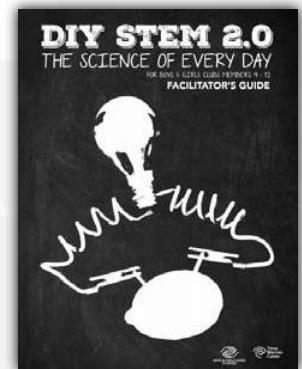
## Project Learn

Project Learn reinforces and enhances the skills and knowledge that young people learn at school while they are in the Club. This comprehensive program strategy is based on Dr. Reginald Clark's research showing that students do much better in school when they spend their non-school hours engaged in fun, but academically beneficial, activities. Through Project Learn, Club staff use all the areas and programs in the Club to create opportunities for high-yield learning activities to develop young people's cognitive skills. Activities include reading, writing, storytelling, traditional language, discussions with adults and/or elders, helping others, homework help, tutoring, and games like Scrabble. The Native Adaptation was created in recognition of the unique educational and culturally-related academic needs of Native youth.



## DIY STEM

Do It Yourself (DIY) STEM is an activity-based program for 9-12 year olds to help them make connections between scientific principles and real-world applications. This program uses common items that Clubs may have on hand, or can procure easily to introduce youth to STEM concepts. The DIY STEM program can be implemented in its entirety or as separate units. Every unit details alignment to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and provides step-by-step instructions, facilitation tips and extension questions to ensure fun and learning. Additionally, this DIY STEM Native adaptation features history, achievements and current news related to STEM in Native culture to increase youth interest in activities and future career aspirations.



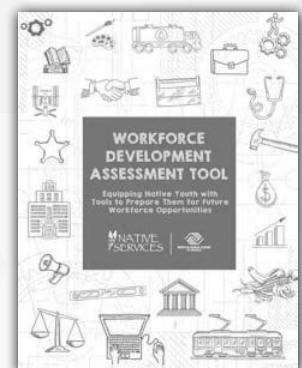
## Year of the Teen

Year of the Teen Native Adaptation shares event ideas that attract teens and their families to the Club. This great list of ideas can help your team create wonderful experiences for your youth. By hosting events centered around social activities, sporting events in the community, college and career readiness, service, and other topics that really matter to teens, you can establish the Club as a perfect place to learn, grow, and have fun. This resource also shares ideas for how to market your events for maximum impact.



## Workforce Development Assessment Tool

The Workforce Development Assessment Tool Native Adaptation helps Clubs assess their ability to integrate the Workforce Development program into their Club. The program prepares teens to enter the workforce while engaging local employers as they are preparing for the next generation of workers. The assessment tool provides step by step procedures that will prepare Club staff to facilitate the programming. Each section acknowledges unique workforce opportunities for Native youth such as becoming Tribal department employees.







**United States Department of the Interior**  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
**MEETING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**DATE:** March 6th  
**TIME:** March 7th 2:30PM - 3:00PM  
**FROM:** Benjamin Cassidy, Senior Deputy Director for External and Intergovernmental Affairs in the Office of the Secretary  
**SUBJECT:** Meeting with Boys and Girls Clubs of America

---

**I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Meeting to discuss the work and future plans of Boys and Girls Clubs (BGCA) in Indian Country.

**II. PARTICIPANTS**

*Internal: Secretary Ryan Zinke, Benjamin Cassidy*

*External Jim Clark, CEO of BGCA; Sage Learn, Senior Director of Government Relations*

**III. BACKGROUND**

BGCA requested the meeting to share their work and plans in Indian Country as well as to hear the Secretary's priorities and learn how they can be a better partner.

**IV. DISCUSSION**

**V. TALKING POINTS/REMARKS**

**VI. ATTACHMENTS**

BGCA Native One-Pager  
BCCA Adapted Curriculum

**EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY  
MEETING WITH UNITED KINGDOM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS MICHAEL GOVE**

FROM: Karen Senhadji, David Downes, Ryan Close, Office of International Affairs  
THROUGH: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs

**I. PURPOSE**

The United Kingdom Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Michael Gove will be in Washington, DC March 6-8 and is seeking a meeting with Secretary Zinke in order to discuss efforts to combat illegal trade in wildlife. This meeting will be an opportunity to underscore DOI's commitment to a strong bilateral relationship with an important U.S. ally and our strong interest in joint efforts to combat wildlife trafficking.

**II. PARTICIPANTS**

United Kingdom  
Secretarial and embassy officials and staff TBD

DOI  
DOI/FWS officials and staff TBD

**III. RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS**

- The United States considers illegal trade in wildlife to be a serious crime that threatens wildlife and national and global security. Wildlife trafficking fuels corruption, insecurity, and instability, and undermines the rule of law.
- Given that both the U.S. and UK have committed significant resources to combating wildlife trafficking, I welcome opportunities to improve bilateral coordination and collaboration in our efforts, so that we may increase our impact and speed our collective progress on this issue.
- [If raised] The 2018 London Conference on the Illegal Trade in Wildlife will be an important event. U.S. representation at the event will be led and coordinated by the State Department.

**IV. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS**

- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra<sup>1</sup>) is the ministerial-level agency responsible for environmental protection – including wildlife and habitat conservation – food development and standards, fisheries, agriculture, protection of rural communities, and protection against flooding and other natural hazards.

---

<sup>1</sup> This acronym is rendered in the UK as 'Defra', as opposed to 'DEFRA', and is pronounced with a short 'e' (DEAF-ruh).

- It is quite likely that Secretary Gove will invite you to the *2018 London Conference on the Illegal Trade in Wildlife*, to be held October 10-11. The inaugural London Conference, hosted by the UK Government in 2014, aimed to bring together international leadership to secure political commitments to end the illegal trade in wildlife. That conference resulted in 46 countries (including the U.S.) and 11 international organizations signing the London Declaration, calling for strengthened law enforcement and legal frameworks, reduced demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife parts and support for sustainable livelihoods. The London Conference was followed by conferences in Kasane, Botswana in 2015 and Hanoi, Vietnam in 2016. Statements from these subsequent meetings reported on progress against the original London Declaration actions.
- The U.S. State Department is the lead agency on the London Conference. The State Department Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) has led a small U.S. delegation to each meeting, which has included representation from DOI/FWS. While none of the actions in the Declaration or Statements is binding, these meetings have helped to elevate the issue politically. DOI will coordinate closely with DOS to ensure proper engagement in and representation at the 2018 Conference.
- Senior members of the UK cabinet are known as Secretaries of State, a position that is more senior than UK ministers. A British Secretary of State holds responsibilities – and resides at a level of protocol stature – directly comparable to U.S. cabinet members.

## V. BACKGROUND

The United Kingdom is one of the staunchest, oldest, and most important of America's allies. Recently the UK government has courted the U.S. government in order to bolster efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade. In addition to DOI, UK officials are also engaging the State Department and the Justice Department.

**Wildlife Trafficking.** Countering the illegal trade in wildlife is a priority for the UK government and the Royal Family. Since 2012, the UK government has committed approximately USD \$36M to combating wildlife trafficking worldwide. These funds support projects through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. Additionally, The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry created United for Wildlife, an organization which is committed to fighting the illegal wildlife trade.

In October 2017, the UK announced a ban on ivory sales to protect elephants by removing opportunities to trade illegally poached ivory. The proposed ban would end the legal sale of ivory items of any age, with narrow exemptions for musical instruments, items with a small proportion of ivory, items of significant history, artistic, or cultural value, and sales to and between museums. The comment period for the proposed ban closed in December 2017 and the ban is expected to be in place within the year. The UK's ivory ban is similar to the near total ban on commercial trade in African elephant ivory that went into effect in the U.S. in 2016.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cooperates closely with Defra (the CITES Management Authority for the UK) and other UK authorities and institutions in the effort to combat wildlife trafficking, an international problem that is often linked to international criminal or terrorist networks. FWS often works closely with UK CITES authorities on issues of shared interest. FWS recently participated in a round table discussion held in London to discuss UK efforts to impose an elephant ivory trade ban. FWS provided its information on the US effort to strengthen ivory trade controls, which the UK appears to be using as a model for its efforts.

**Other DOI-UK Cooperation.** The United Kingdom has one of the world's leading scientific communities, and the government and other institutions in the UK play a significant global role in areas beyond trafficking that are important for DOI. Consequently, a number of DOI bureaus and offices cooperate regularly with UK counterparts, both bilaterally and in multilateral settings, with Defra and others.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement regularly have exchanges with UK counterparts to share information and experiences regarding the management of offshore energy development, including both oil and gas (where the UK is a longstanding leader through its experience in the North Sea) and wind (where the UK is an emerging leader in planning, deploying and managing innovative offshore technologies).

The U.S. Geological Survey has a long-standing association with the British Geological Survey; areas of particular interest are 3D geologic modeling and LIDAR applications. Various areas of cooperation have been discussed with Defra, including remote sensing applications, streamflow measurements, flood inundation mapping and geomatics. USGS has a keen interest in exploring deeper collaboration in the areas of data sharing, technologies, and applied science.

The National Park Service has worked with UK colleagues through staff exchanges and sister park arrangements to commemorate and protect heritage sites.

## **VI. ATTACHMENTS**

Bio for Michael Gove

**ATTACHMENT: Bio for Michael Gove**

**The Rt. Honorable Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**



**Current Tenure:** Gove was named Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on June 11, 2017.

**Professional Background:** Michael Gove began his career as an MP in 2005, first serving as Shadow Minister for Housing and then Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from 2007 to 2010. He also served as Secretary of State for Education (2010-2014); Government Chief Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (2014-2015); and Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (2015-2016). He took a prominent role in the successful campaign to leave the European Union, serving as Co-Convener of the Vote to Leave campaign committee. After briefing leaving government in 2016, Michael helped found Change Britain, an advocacy group for the implantation of Brexit, and served as Vice Chair of the Select Committee on Exiting the European Union.

Prior to public life, Michael worked as a journalist for local and national newspapers, radio, and TV, reporting on issues such as EU corruption, threats to small businesses, and advocating for victims of crime. He also served as Assistant Editor of *The Times* and former Chairman of Policy Exchange, a UK center-right think-tank. In addition, Michael appeared in the 1995 feature film, *A Feast at Midnight*, playing the school chaplain.

**Educational Background:** Michael was educated at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University.

**Personal Details:** He is married to a columnist at *The Daily Mail* and has a teenage daughter and son.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
**MEETING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**DATE:** 3/7/2018  
**TIME:** 11:45-12:45  
**FROM:** Tucker Davis  
**SUBJECT:** Meeting with FirstEnergy

---

**I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**II. PARTICIPANTS**

*Internal*

Vincent DeVito

*External*

Chuck Jones, President and CEO

**III. BACKGROUND**

FirstEnergy's 10 regulated distribution companies form one of the nation's largest electric systems, based on serving 6 million customers in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions. Stretching from the Ohio-Indiana border to the New Jersey shore, the companies operate a vast infrastructure of more than 269,000 miles of distribution lines.

**IV. DISCUSSION**

ESA, regulatory certainty

**V. TALKING POINTS/REMARKS**

- Over 90% of FirstEnergy's electricity is generated from West Virginia coal.
- We have worked closely with WV Coal Association and the State of WV to ensure that regulatory burdens on Appalachian coal are being removed in order to keep electricity costs low.
- ESA: We have taken steps toward ensuring that the Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't overstep their bounds in acting as a regulatory agency on coal production.

**VI. NEXT STEPS**

## Empowering Native Youth to Strengthen their Communities



At Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), we believe every kid in America deserves a great future. However, each kid experiences drastically different circumstances. Many youth, especially those from underserved communities, have limited opportunities to engage in programs that focus on achieving academic success, developing leadership skills and fostering resiliency skills critical to staying on track to graduate high school with a plan for the future.

In Indian Country,<sup>1</sup> a history of systemic racism and poverty make these challenges especially acute for Native youth — they face disproportionate odds of experiencing alcoholism, obesity and Type I diabetes, as well as low educational attainment and high suicide rates. **While Native youth may endure more risk factors than their peers nationwide, they also have many assets within themselves and their communities that can support their success.** By investing in Native youth and strengthening their sense of place and tradition in the community, we can ensure that Native communities will have bright and capable future leaders.

Over the past 25 years, BGCA has partnered with tribal nations, supporting their efforts to create opportunities for Native youth to succeed. Native youth draw strength from their culture, and Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country support deepening Native youth's cultural identity through programming that promotes positive youth development. Today, as the nation's largest service provider to Native youth, BGCA operates a network of nearly 200 Native Clubs serving approximately 90,000 youth in 27 states, representing some 100 different American Indian, Alaska Native, American Samoan and Hawaiian communities.



### Native-Led Expertise: BGCA's Native Services Unit

The majority of Clubs serving Native youth operate on tribal lands, and many are managed and staffed by tribal citizens. In 2013, BGCA created the Native Services Unit, a department within our organization — intentionally led by people of Native heritage — to provide direction and strategy for Native Clubs. The Native Services Unit assists in capacity building at Native Clubs, including developing leaders at all levels of our

<sup>1</sup> Indian Country refers to the many self-governing Native American communities throughout the United States. There are 567 federally-recognized tribes, each with their own culture, traditions and language.



Native organizations. Rooted in the cultural and historical context of Native communities, the Native Services Unit enhances our ability to:

- Build and sustain collaborations with tribal leaders and stakeholders;
- Provide professional development and networking specifically for Native Clubs; and
- Strengthen Native youth's cultural identity through customized programming.

Building on Boys & Girls Clubs' proven youth development model, the Native Services Unit partners with Native communities to address challenges and issues unique to Native lands,

including providing learning opportunities that are culturally relevant and meaningful. Additionally, our Native Advisory Committee provides leadership and insights into Native history, traditions and values, ensuring Native youth gain the best possible benefits from Club services.

### Providing Opportunity for More Native Youth

BGCA continues to advance its efforts to support and reach more Native youth. **Our goal is to increase the number of Native youth we serve to 100,000 in 200 Clubs across Indian Country by 2020, providing training for 400 youth development professionals and strengthening Club CEO and board leadership.**

Through partnerships with tribal leaders and key stakeholders, BGCA will expand opportunities and deepen impact for Native youth. To meet the overwhelming need for quality youth services throughout Indian Country, BGCA will:

1. Provide culturally-relevant **professional development** to ensure staff at all levels are providing youth with the highest-quality Club Experience;
2. Partner with Clubs in Indian Country to **ensure fidelity** in program delivery and the utilization of a common set of youth metrics and outcomes to foster continuous quality improvement;
3. Increase availability and usage of **culturally-relevant tools and resources** for youth development professionals;
4. Continue to **adapt BGCA programs for Native youth** to increase positive outcomes in academic success, health and wellness, and resiliency; and
5. Provide local **capacity building and technical assistance** to Native Clubs, ensuring the sustainability and expansion of services to Native youth.

By achieving these objectives, BGCA will drive greater outcomes for youth in our three priority outcome areas: Academic Success, Good Character & Citizenship and Healthy Lifestyles. **Native youth are resilient and ready to realize their full potential. It is time for us to do our part.**



**United States Department of the Interior  
Official Travel Schedule of the Secretary**

**Montana  
March 8-10, 2018**



**TRIP SUMMARY**  
**THE TRIP OF THE SECRETARY TO**  
**Montana**  
**March 8-March 10, 2018**

**Weather:**

Whitefish (RON)  
Browning (Friday)  
Glacier (Saturday)

Rain/Snow, High: 36°F, Low: 25°F / Precipitation: 60%  
Partly Cloudy, High: 34°F, Low: 23°F / Precipitation: 20%  
Snow Showers, High: 18°F, Low: 9°F / Precipitation: 60%

**Time Zone:**

Montana

Mountain Standard Time (-2 hours from DC)

**Advance (Glacier/Missoula):**

Security Advance  
Advance

**Cell Phone:**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c), (b)(7)(f)  
Aaron Thiele (b)(6)

**Traveling Staff:**

Agent in Charge  
Press Secretary  
Principal Deputy A/S ASIA  
Advisor FWP  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Deputy Director NPS

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c), (b)(7)(f)  
Heather Swift  
John Tahsuda  
Marshall Critchfield (b)(6)  
Mike Argo  
Dan Smith

**Attire:**

Montana Formal (Jeans and Blazer) / Cold Weather Gear

**Thursday, March 8, 2018**

Washington, DC → Whitefish, MT

**3:15-3:30pm EST: Depart Department of the Interior en route National Airport**

**4:40pm EST-  
7:27pm MST:**

**Wheels up Washington, DC (DCA) en route Salt Lake City, UT (SLC)**

Flight: Delta 939  
Flight time: 4 hours 47 minutes  
RZ Seat: 22C  
AiC: (b)(6), (b)(7)(c), (...)  
Staff: Mike Argo, Heather Swift, Marshall Critchfield  
*NOTE: TIME ZONE CHANGE EST to MST (-2 hour change)*

**7:27-10:10pm MST: Layover in Salt Lake City, UT // 2 hours 30 minutes minute layover**

**10:10pm MST-  
11:57pm MST:**

**Wheels up Salt Lake City, UT (SLC) en route Kalispell, MT (FCA)**

Flight: Delta 2748  
Flight time: 1 hours, 47 minutes  
RZ Seat: 16F  
AiC: (b)(6), (b)(7)(c), (b)(7)(f)  
Staff: Mike Argo, Heather Swift, Marshall Critchfield

**11:57pm MST: Wheels down Glacier Park International Airport**

Location: 4170 US-2  
Kalispell, MT 59901

**12:00-12:15am MST: Depart Airport en route Residence**

Location:  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Sec. Vehicle: RZ  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(c), (b)(7)...  
Staff Vehicle: Aaron Thiele  
Heather Swift  
John Tahsuda  
Marshall Critchfield  
Drive Time: ~20 minutes without traffic

**12:15am MST: RON**

**Friday, March 9, 2018**

Whitefish, MT → Browning, MT → Whitefish, MT

**7:00-8:45am MST: Depart RON en route to Blackfeet Nation**

Location: All Chiefs Square  
Browning, MT  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Sec. Vehicle: RZ  
John Tahsuda  
Mike Argo

Staff: Vehicle    Aaron Thiele  
                         Heather Swift

Note: Blackfeet Law Enforcement will escort from city limits to community building.

**8:45am MST:**

**Welcome and Greet Chairman Barnes**

Location:        Blackfeet Tribe Conference Room  
                         Browning, MT

Participants:    RZ  
                         John Tahsuda  
                         Alan Mikkelson  
                         Mike Argo  
                         Chairman Barnes

Note: Refreshments will be available

**9:00am MST:**

**Blackfeet Tribe Water Settlement Signing Ceremony**

Location:        Blackfeet Tribe Conference Room

Participants:    RZ  
                         John Tahsuda  
                         Alan Mikkelson  
                         Mike Argo

Press:            Open

Agenda:          9:00am - Opening Prayer and Posting of Color Guards  
                         9:15am - Welcome Remarks by Chairman Barnes  
                         9:20am - Chairman Barnes Introduces Secretary Zinke  
                         9:25am - Remarks by Secretary Zinke  
                         9:40am - Signing for Release of Funds by Secretary Zinke  
                         9:45am - Official Photos at signing table  
                         9:50am - Honor Song (Rawhide Singers) & Gifting (BTBC)  
                         9:55am - Closing Remarks by Chairman Barnes

**10:00am MST:**

**Depart Browning en route Heart Butte**

Location:        12 Wild Gun Dr.,  
                         Heart Butte, MT

Vehicle Manifest:  
                         Secretary's Vehicle:    RZ  
                                                 John Tahsuda  
                                                 Mike Argo  
                         Staff Vehicle:            Aaron Thiele  
                                                 Heather Swift

Drive Time: ~ 30 Minutes

**10:30am MST:**

**Driving Tour of Heart Butte**

Location:        12 Wild Gun Dr.,  
                         Heart Butte, MT

Vehicle Manifest:  
                         Sec. Vehicle:            RZ  
                                                 John Tahsuda  
                                                 Mike Argo  
                                                 Chairman Barnes (Tentative)  
                         Staff: Vehicle          Aaron Thiele  
                                                 Heather Swift

**10:30am -  
1:00pm MST:**

**Depart Heart Butte en route Residence**

Vehicle Manifest:  
Sec. Vehicle: RZ  
John Tahsuda  
Mike Argo  
Staff: Vehicle Aaron Thiele  
Heather Swift

**4:00pm -  
4:25pm MST:**

**Depart en route Kalispell, MT**  
Location: 727 E Idaho St,  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Sec. Vehicle: RZ  
Heather Swift  
Mike Argo  
Staff: Vehicle Aaron Thiele

**4:30pm MST:**

**Interview with Frank Miele, Editor of Daily Inter Lake**  
Location: 727 E Idaho St,  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
Participants: RZ  
Heather Swift  
Frank Miele

**5:30pm MST:**

**Depart Daily Inter Lake en route Residence**  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Sec. Vehicle: RZ  
Heather Swift  
Mike Argo  
Staff: Vehicle Aaron Thiele

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**  
Whitefish, MT

**9:30-9:50am MST:**

**Depart RON en route Glacier National Park Conservancy**  
Location: 402 9th Street West  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle: RZ  
Marshall Critchfield  
Dan Smith  
Staff Vehicle: Aaron Thiele  
Heather Swift  
Mike Argo  
Drive Time: ~20 min without traffic

**10:00am MST:**

**Meeting with Glacier NPS Leadership and Glacier National Park Conservancy**  
Location: 402 9th Street West  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912  
Participants: RZ  
Marshall Critchfield  
Mike Argo  
Heather Swift

Dan Smith  
Jeff Mow, Superintendent, Glacier National Park  
Eric Smith, Dep. Super. Glacier National Park  
Doug Smith, Executive Director

Format:  
Press: Closed

**11:00am MST: Press Gaggle with NPS and Glacier National Park Conservancy**

Location: 402 9th Street West  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Participants: RZ  
Heather Swift  
Marshall Critchfield  
Danny Smith  
Jeff Mow, Superintendent, Glacier National Park  
Eric Smith, Dep. Super. Glacier National Park  
Doug Smith, Executive Director

Format:

**11:30am MST: Depart en route Residence**



## THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

### National Park Restoration Act/Public Lands Infrastructure Fund

3/7/18

10-11:30 am

Dirksen 428

Action Officer: Micah Chambers – micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov – 202.208.5348

- I. PURPOSE:** Sec. Zinke will attend a press event with Sen. Alexander and cosponsors of the National Park Restoration Act to unveil the legislation and its contents.
- II. BACKGROUND:** The Public Lands Infrastructure Fund is a DOI proposal that was in both the President's FY19 Budget proposal and his infrastructure proposal. Most importantly, we are looking at a new proposal to raise funds for this purpose by dedicating a portion of Federal energy revenues to address this problem. The proposed Public Lands Infrastructure Fund (Fund) outlined in the President's 2019 budget would address repairs and improvement in national parks, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools. The Administration's proposal would set aside for infrastructure needs a portion of unallocated Federal energy revenues exceeding FY 2019 Budget baseline projections for infrastructure needs. These receipts would be derived from all sources of Federal energy revenues, including mineral leasing, e.g., oil, gas and coal, under the Mineral Leasing Act and Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as well as solar, wind, and geothermal development. While the budget estimate assumes this initiative would result in \$6.8 billion in expenditures from the Fund over 10 years, the proposal allows for as much as \$18 billion to be available through this legislation if energy revenues exceed budget projections. Funds would be distributed using a merit-based process that includes consideration of asset condition and mission criticality, and progress would be measured and reported through an agency-wide performance measure. This bold investment would significantly improve the Nation's most visible and visited public facilities that support a multibillion dollar outdoor recreation economy. Sen. Alexander and Rep. Simpson will be introducing language that follows the President's and Secretary's budget blueprint; however, the Senator's bill is specific to NPS only. We support the bill as the largest portion of the backlog is with NPS and the Secretary specifically cited the NPS backlog as one of his top priorities in his confirmation process. However, we will continue to ask for amendments throughout the legislative process to plug in FWS and BIE to keep it consistent with the President's budget.
- III. PARTICIPANTS**
- Internal*
- Secretary Zinke
  - Chris Lehnertz, Grand Canyon Superintendent
  - Kevin Schneider, Acadia Superintendent
  - Cassius Cash, Smokies Superintendent
  - Karen Cucurullo or Brandon Bies, National Mall
- External*
- Senator Alexander
  - Rep. Simpson
  - Senator Daines

- Senator Gardner
- Senator Tillis
- Senator Capito

#### **IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

##### **10:30 Start**

##### **Cosponsors & Secretary Speak (3 minute speeches, 15-18 minutes total)**

##### Speaking Order:

- Sen. Alexander
- Secretary Zinke
- Sen. Daines
- Sen. Gardner
- Sen. Tillis
- Sen. Capito
- Rep. Simpson

##### **Q&A (10 minutes)**

##### **11:00 Depart**

#### **V. PRESS PLAN**

The event will be **OPEN PRESS**. Upon completion of the event, Secretary Zinke will participate in a press gaggle with reporters. There will also be 3 National Park employees who will be able to address the press for specifics on park infrastructure needs.

#### **VI. REMARKS (3 Minutes) – \*STILL IN DRAFT\***

- Rebuilding our nation's infrastructure: top priority
- Parks being loved to death
- Senator Alexander's "Nat'l Park Restoration Act" emphasizes commitment to parks
  - Bipartisan solution: Glad to have Senator King here
- Traveled with Senator Alexander to Smokies for the Parks' 101st birthday
- Public Lands Infrastructure Fund: part of the President's budget
- To address the backlog, we need to work with Congress

#### **VII. ATTACHMENTS: Photos Coming**



**EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**  
**MEETING WITH UNITED KINGDOM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND**  
**RURAL AFFAIRS MICHAEL GOVE**

THROUGH: Greg Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
FROM: Edward J. Grace, Acting Assistant Director, Office of Law Enforcement

**BACKGROUND:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) works to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Its leadership in combating wildlife trafficking is founded on more than 40 years of experience in ensuring that international wildlife trade is legal and sustainable for both the survival of species and of local economies through implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and domestic wildlife laws, including the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Lacey Act.

Its Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) and International Affairs Program (IA) lead these efforts by working together and independently to support shared goals to combat wildlife trafficking. The work is critical to conservation in this country and around the world as wildlife and plant populations and their habitats face the uncertainties of such continuing threats as domestic and global wildlife trafficking.

A 2013 Executive Order on combating wildlife trafficking was the basis for an interagency task force that coordinates efforts to strengthen global enforcement, reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products, and expand international commitment across a range of multilateral, regional and bilateral forums. Principal Deputy Director Sheehan for the Service co-leads this task force along with counterparts from the Department of Justice, State, and the Agency for International Development. The agencies also coordinate their work to implement the END Wildlife Trafficking Act, signed into law in October 2016.

#### **KEY FACTS**

**Office of Law Enforcement:** OLE is a small, but highly effective law enforcement agency. In fiscal year 2017, OLE pursued over 10,500 wildlife crime investigations, which resulted in over \$2 million in fines, over \$3.7 million in civil penalties, and over 25 years in prison; inspected 187,127 shipments of wildlife and wildlife products (valued at over \$4 billion) entering or leaving the United States; examined 3,064 pieces of evidence; educated and informed thousands of students and the general public about wildlife trafficking, what they can do to recognize it, and how not contribute to it; and trained hundreds of other federal, state, tribal, and international conservation law enforcement professionals. OLE Special Agents and Wildlife Inspectors are highly trained in recognizing and detecting these wildlife items and their parts and products, as well as in sophisticated investigative techniques to apprehend violators, and are recognized in the U.S. and internationally as subject matter experts in counter-wildlife trafficking investigations (which OLE has been conducting since the early 1970's after the passage of the Endangered Species Act and CITES).

OLE has several specialized units that not only support our domestic investigations, but also work with federal and international counterparts to fight global wildlife trafficking. These specialized units include the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (the world's only full-service crime laboratory devoted exclusively to supporting wildlife law enforcement), the Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit (specializes in highly technical functions related to digital forensics and technical surveillance equipment), the Wildlife Intelligence Unit (specializes in identifying and addressing the need for modernizing our informational infrastructure and informational gaps), the International Operations Unit (seven senior special agent attachés stationed at the following U.S. embassies: Bangkok, Thailand; Beijing, China; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Gaborone, Botswana; Libreville, Gabon, Lima, Peru; and Mexico City, Mexico), the Special Investigations Unit, (OLE's major crimes unit. It employs both overt and covert investigative methods with a focus on criminal organizations that have the greatest negative impact on wildlife resources), and the Branch of Training and Inspection (provides training to OLE staff and partner organizations, both domestically and internationally and to conduct and coordinate programmatic inspections).

**International Affairs and CITES Support:** The United States is one of the world's largest importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife products, and plays a significant role in the global legal wildlife trade, currently valued in billions of dollars annually. To facilitate legal and sustainable trade and ensure international trade does not threaten the survival of animals and plants in the wild, the Service is responsible for implementation of CITES in the United States. Each Party to the agreement designates Management and Scientific Authorities to issue permits, make legal and scientific findings, and monitor trade. For the United States, these authorities reside in the Service's International Affairs Program.

**International Affairs Financial Assistance Summary:** The Service's support to on-the-ground projects includes financial and technical support to assist in the conservation of a suite of iconic species throughout the world. Through its financial assistance programs, the Service provides financial and technical assistance to the wildlife custodians that have jurisdiction over priority wildlife populations. These carefully managed funds must be used for activities that directly contribute to wildlife survival and reduction of wildlife crime, including essential operations to prevent poaching, protect habitat, implement sustainable offtake programs where applicable, minimize and mitigate conflict with people, and improve interdiction and prosecution of wildlife crimes. Projects are selected by a panel of experts through a competitive application procedure. To be selected, the projects must have the approval of the country's wildlife authority and must reflect the country's priorities as well as the priorities of the Department of the Interior, the Service, and the specific acts of law that authorize the programs.

#### **WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

**Operation Crash** is a complex, multi-year, and multi-agency investigation into the black-market world of wildlife trafficking. This Service-led law enforcement initiative, prosecuted by DOJ, was created to detect, deter, and prosecute those engaged in the illegal killing and trafficking of endangered rhinoceros and their horns, as well as elephants and ivory. Crash was started in 2011 after a taxidermist contacted Service special agents concerning Irishmen who were looking to buy illegal rhino horns and mounts and then smuggle the mounts to the United Kingdom in furniture shipments. Federal agents met with Europol counterparts and discovered the Irish smugglers were part of an Irish cartel called, "the Rathkeale Rovers," which are a segment of an Irish-clan network called, "the Irish Travellers". To date, 50 criminals have been charged and 33 sentenced. Charges filed against defendants include violations of the Endangered Species Act, the Lacey Act, conspiracy, smuggling, money laundering, international money laundering, mail fraud, tax evasion, bribery, and false documents.

**Operation Broken Glass** is an on-going Service OLE-led investigation focusing on the illegal take of juvenile American eels ("glass eels") to supply the demand in Asian countries for this food delicacy and has documented multiple U.S. subjects involved in the illegal trafficking of eels cumulatively valued at over \$3 million USD. Live juvenile American eels can fetch more than \$2,000 per pound at the dock. Sophisticated criminal networks within the U.S. have reaped significant profits by exploiting enforcement deficiencies and illegally harvesting eels in closed waters (in one case, seven defendants were convicted of trafficking American eels valued at over \$1.9 million dollars). This illegal trafficking undercuts legitimate operators who fish legally (as well as eel farming operations) and impacts conservation efforts. During a two-year period, one of the case defendants trafficked approximately \$189,374 worth of illegally harvested eels. The ongoing dismantling of this transnational organized crime syndicate has resulted so far in 15 felony convictions for violations of the Lacey Act and sentences are pending.

**To:** Aaron Thiele[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt [REDACTED] Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_werner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Leila Getto[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; Luke Bullock[wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov]; Mike Argo[michael\_argo@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Zinke[cdr06@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** ryanzinke [REDACTED]  
**From:** Boulton, Caroline  
**Sent:** 2018-03-06T17:11:05-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Electronic Briefing Book: 3.7.18  
**Received:** 2018-03-06T17:11:42-05:00  
[3-6-18 National Park Restoration Act Questions and Answers.docx](#)

Adding additional Q&A talking points for tomorrow morning's parks event supplied by OCL.  
Best,  
Caroline

On Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 5:06 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

All,

Attached and below are tomorrow's schedule and briefing materials. The draft itinerary for the upcoming Montana visit is also attached.

Best,  
Caroline

#### **Daily Schedule**

- |                |                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9:00am</b>  | <b>Daily Scheduling &amp; Communications Meeting</b><br>Location: Secretary's Office<br><i>Staff: Deputy Secretary, Magallanes, Argo, Rigas, Hommel</i> |
| <b>9:30am</b>  | <b>Meeting with the Deputy Secretary</b><br>Location: Secretary's Office<br><i>Staff: Deputy Secretary</i>                                              |
| <b>10:00am</b> | <b>Depart DOI en route Capitol</b>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>10:30am</b> | <b>National Parks Infrastructure Event with Sen. Alexander</b><br>Location: 428 Dirksen SOB<br><i>Staff: Chambers, Swift</i>                            |
| <b>11:00am</b> | <b>Depart Capitol en route DOI</b>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>11:45am</b> | <b>Meeting with FirstEnergy</b><br>Location: Secretary's Office<br><i>Staff: DeVito</i>                                                                 |
| <b>12:45pm</b> | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>1:00pm</b>  | <b>Meeting with U.K. Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</b><br>Michael Gove                                                     |

Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Domenech, Sheehan, Senhadji*

**2:00pm**      **Potential Call with Governor Cuomo (NY)**  
Location: Secretary's Office

**2:30pm**      **Meeting with Boys and Girls Club**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Cassidy*

**3:00pm**      **Monthly Meeting with ASPMB**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Cameron, Magallanes, Hommel*

**4:00pm**      **Budget Prep**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Magallanes, Cameron, Tanner, Chambers, Ferriter, Flanagan, Salotti, Moss*

--

Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403

--

Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403

## National Park Restoration Act Questions Topline

### The Bill Won't Provide Any Money

- The bill provides 50% of onshore and offshore revenues from ALL sorts of energy production on federal lands over 2018 projections that are not already allocated to other purposes.
- The Administration estimates this proposal will generate \$7 billion over ten years.
- The bill will help provide real money to the national park maintenance backlog in a fiscally responsible way.
- **The bill won't take any money until the federal government receives everything from energy production on federal land that they already expected. Half of any revenues over that expected amount, that are not already allocated to other purposes like payments to GOMESA states and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, will go to help rebuild our national parks.**
- In FY 2017 the National Park Service's deferred maintenance needs were \$11.6 billion (that's equivalent to the entire DOI budget request) – that same fiscal year, the National Park Service received \$2.9 billion in annual appropriations for their total budget.
- Any additional funding we can provide to our national parks is greatly needed to help reduce the backlog.

### The Bill Incentivizes More Oil and Gas Drilling

- Nothing in the text of the legislation requires or incentivizes the Administration to increase oil and gas exploration on Federal lands.
- The legislation includes revenues from all energy production on federal lands – oil, gas, coal, and renewables.
  - **For context, Legacy Act and LWCF rely only on offshore oil and gas revenues. This proposal is actually more stable because it relies on all federal energy sources that provide revenue.**
- What we are doing today is something we have been doing for over 50 years – taking money from an environmental burden and using it for an environmental benefit.
- We started this with the Land and Water Conservation Fund over 50 years and are building on this idea by providing funding to address the \$11 billion maintenance backlog in our National Parks.

### **The Bill Only Includes the National Park Service and Not Fish and Wildlife Service or Bureau of Indian Education (Or Other Land Management Agencies)**

- Our national parks are also our most popular public lands. In 2017, nearly 331 million people visited our national parks across the country.
- **The budget support NPS, FWS and BIE, but the NPS has the largest, most notable need. If we included all three in the initial bill, it would have three committees of jurisdiction. Will work with Congress through the legislative process on FWS and BIE**
- **The maintenance backlog at our national parks is over \$11 billion. It is by far the largest maintenance backlog of any of our federal land management agencies.**
- According to the Congressional Research Service, in FY 2016, the national park maintenance backlog accounted for nearly 60% of the deferred maintenance needs on all our federal lands. The next largest maintenance backlog, the U.S. Forest Service, is less than half of the National Park Service maintenance backlog.

### **The National Park Service Legacy Act Is Already Introduced**

- There is a backlog of maintenance needs at our national parks that is over \$11 billion. The more people we have talking about this problem, the better.
- **What DOI was able to do was to get OMB to agree that using revenues from energy production on federal lands to help address our national park maintenance backlog is a good idea. That's a big deal.**
- **Worked with Sen. Alexander to introduce this legislation and was excited to do so. Had a great conversation with him when we visited Smokies together for the 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the NPS**
- **For any legislation to become law, the president has to sign it. So having the administration on board – the president included this proposal in both his FY 2019 budget and his infrastructure plan – is an important part of the process.**

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-07T07:06:15-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 7, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-07T07:06:19-05:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 7, 2018 at 5:58:54 AM EST  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018 6:00 AM EST**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Associated Press: Zinke Says Interior Should Be A Partner With Oil Companies.
- Bloomberg News: U.S. To Allow Elephant Trophy Imports Despite Trump's Condemnation.
- Great Falls (MT) Tribune: Congressional Delegation Seeks Disaster Designation For Blackfoot Reservation.
- Wisconsin Gazette: Local Elected Officials Demand Paul Ryan Move To Protect Public Lands.
- KUCB-FM Unalaska (AK): Aleutians East Borough Votes To Join Feds In Battle Over King Cove Road.
- Public News Service: Campaign Urges Interior To Honor Sage Grouse Deal.
- Government Computer News: Interior Seeks Social Media Management Tool.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Associated Press: New Mexico Official Threatens To Erect Fence To Block Border Patrol Operations.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: About 100,000 Public Comments Supporting Sage Grouse Plans Missing In Federal Report, Some Say.

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Hundreds Of State Lawmakers Ask For 5-year Plan Exemptions.

### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

- Coast Guard Responders Harmed By Chemicals Used To Clean Up BP Oil Spill, Research Shows.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Associated Press: South Carolina Residents Criticize Osprey Nest Removal.
- Associated Press: States To Begin Surveys For Lesser-Prairie Chicken.
- KYUK-TV Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (AK): Public Hearing Scheduled On Proposed Kuskokwim King Salmon Restrictions.

#### **National Park Service**

- Associated Press: 2 Arrested At Yellowstone Park's Bison Corral.
- Associated Press: New Marker Notes Confederate General's Role In Slave Trade.

#### **Insular And International Affairs**

- DOI Issues \$5M Authorization To Proceed With CUC Projects.
- Breast Cancer Care In U.S. Territories Lags Behind Care In States.

#### **US Geological Survey**

- Durango (CO) Herald: Former Astronaut From Colorado Vows To Shield U.S. Geological Survey From Politics.
- Additional Reading.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- Zinke's U-Turn Puts Oil And Gas Industry On Edge.
- Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Fighting For Us.
- St. John Needs A New Public School.
- Additional Coverage.

#### **Top National News**

- Bloomberg News: Amid GOP Opposition, Trump Reiterates He Will Levy Tariffs On Steel, Aluminum Imports.
- ABC: Cohn Resigns White House Post After Losing Internal Debate Over Tariffs.
- CBS: Trump Takes Credit For Apparent North Korea's Willingness To Negotiate Giving Up Nukes.

#### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Gary Cohn's Exit Won't Make This Administration Any Better."
  - "Famine Stalks South Sudan."
  - "North Korea Has Put The Ball In Trump's Court."
- Washington Post.
  - "Trump's 'Maximum Pressure' On North Korea Is Working. Now What?"
  - "The Public Has Spoken On Gun Control. Don't Wait For The White House."
  - "Who Knew About The Improper Transfer Of The DC School Chancellor's Daughter?"
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "North Korea's Negotiation Play."
  - "The Cohn Departure."
  - "California's Water Hole."

#### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

#### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.



## Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

## DOI In The News

---

### **Zinke Says Interior Should Be A Partner With Oil Companies.**

The [AP](#) (3/6, Koenig) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "says his agency should be a partner with oil and gas companies that seek to drill on public land and that long regulatory reviews with an uncertain outcome are 'un-American.'" Speaking at a major energy-industry conference on Tuesday, Zinke talked about the Trump Administration's "efforts to increase offshore drilling, reduce regulations, and streamline inspections of oil and gas operators." Zinke said, "Interior should not be in the business of being an adversary. We should be in the business of being a partner."

[Courthouse News](#) (3/6, Renda) reports that "Zinke's latest overture to the oil and gas industry prompted more rage from environmentalists who say the Trump administration and the Department of Interior are far too cozy with an industry many see as responsible for the exacerbation of climate change and pollution." Lena Moffitt of the Sierra Club said in a statement Tuesday, "The Department of the Interior is tasked with protecting our public lands and waters for the public good, not easing the way for corporate polluters to drill, frack, and mine them for their own profits."

Additional coverage was provided by [Platts](#) (3/6, Scheid) and [Law360](#) (3/6, Casady).

*Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Says Natural Gas Flaring Is 'Wasteful'.* The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/6, Osborne) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday said "oil and gas operations on federal lands could soon be offered a financial incentive to stop flaring natural gas from oil wells." Zinke "described the practice as 'wasteful' and raised the possibility of reducing the royalties collected by the federal government and speeding up permitting times for pipelines and other infrastructure needed to get gas to market." He said, "I don't know what the future is, just that flaring is a waste."

*Ryan Zinke Said Wind Power Leads To Global Warming.* [TIME](#) (3/6, Worland) reports that "in a speech before oil and gas industry executives, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke argued that the production and transportation of wind turbines contributes to global warming, but he overstated the factual case, especially when compared with other forms of energy." In his comments, Zinke "acknowledged that fossil fuels generate carbon dioxide emissions to argue that 'every type of energy has a consequence,' though he did not expand on that concern." His remarks "came as part of call for an 'all of the above' energy strategy in which oil and gas continue to play a significant role."

### **U.S. To Allow Elephant Trophy Imports Despite Trump's Condemnation.**

Bloomberg News (3/6, Dlouhy) reports that the US is "opening the door to allowing elephant hunters to bring tusks and other animal parts into the country as trophies," despite President Trump's condemnation of the practice as a "horror show." The Interior Department says it is "revising the way it reviews applications to import hunted animal parts in response to a federal court opinion and withdrawing broad conclusions that applied to African elephants killed in Zimbabwe." The policy move, outlined in a March 1 memo, "means that some African elephants taken in Zimbabwe could be imported," according to Bloomberg. ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 9, 0:30, Muir) briefly reported that the US Fish and Wildlife Service will now "issue permits to import hunting trophies on a case by case basis. The President is not hunter, but his sons are, and they have made the argument that the money hunters spend on safari supports conservation and local economies."

The Hill (3/6, Green) reports that "wildlife conservation and animal rights groups are slamming the Trump administration's move to permit some imports of African elephant trophies, fearing the new system will allow decisions to be made in secret." The Interior Department "said the FWS had no choice but to change its policy after a D.C. Circuit Court ruling in December struck down an Obama-era policy that banned importing elephant hunting trophies from Zimbabwe." However, "animal conservation groups are calling the policy change an obvious workaround to the federal court's ruling, which said the FWS should go through an extensive public notice and comment process when proposing a regulation on the trophy imports."

Also reporting are the Washington Post (3/6, Rosenberg), U.S. News & World Report (3/6, Biesecker), USA Today (3/7, Cerbin, Today), CNN (3/6, Wallace), NBC News (3/6, Clark), NPR (3/6, Dwyer), the Huffington Post (3/6, Visser, D'Angelo), and Voice of America (3/6).

### **Congressional Delegation Seeks Disaster Designation For Blackfoot Reservation.**

The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (3/6, Puckett) reports that "Montana's congressional delegation on Tuesday asked Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to designate the Blackfoot Reservation a disaster area due to the harsh winter." The letter by Sen. Steve Daines, Sen. Jon Tester and Rep. Greg Gianforte stated, "We write to echo the urgent request from Chairman Barnes of Montana's Blackfoot Tribe to apply a U.S. Department of Agriculture secretarial disaster designation to the Blackfoot Reservation, as well as provide any additional emergency assistance available within each of your departments as expeditiously as possible given the crippling snowfall that has hit the tribe."

### **Local Elected Officials Demand Paul Ryan Move To Protect Public Lands.**

The Wisconsin Gazette (3/6) reports that "more than 300 elected officials

in Wisconsin have signed a letter calling on House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., to protect public lands – in his home state and across the country.” President Trump’s “newest budget proposes a 90 percent reduction in the Land and Water Conservation Fund – a fund that Wisconsin relies heavily upon to maintain its public lands, according to a news release from the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.” Kerry Schumann, executive director, stated in the release, “Eliminating the LWCF would be a direct attack on local communities throughout Wisconsin and the state’s outdoor recreation industry. Local elected officials understand the value of healthy parks and public lands. Speaker Paul Ryan must stand up against these attacks and work for Wisconsinites – not special interests.”

### **Aleutians East Borough Votes To Join Feds In Battle Over King Cove Road.**

KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK (3/6, Sobel) reports that “the Aleutians East Borough plans to join the legal battle over a land exchange that would allow construction of a controversial road between King Cove and Cold Bay.” Assembly members “voted unanimously last week to intervene on the side of the federal government in the lawsuit environmental groups brought against the Interior Department to stop the road.” The Borough also “approved spending \$61,875 to hire a law firm to help them join the case.”

### **Campaign Urges Interior To Honor Sage Grouse Deal.**

Public News Service (3/7, Galatas) reports that “a new television and online campaign is calling on the U.S. Department of the Interior to honor a deal made by the federal government to preserve critical sage-grouse habitat.” Hunter and conservationist Walt Gasson “stars in the ad.” Gasson “said if Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke truly believes that decisions are best made by people affected on the ground, hunters, ranchers and conservationists need a seat at the table.” The campaign, “produced by the National Wildlife Federation, will run in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Nevada and Washington, D.C.”

### **Interior Seeks Social Media Management Tool.**

Government Computer News (3/6, Friedman) reports that “to better manage more than 1,500 social media accounts for Department of Interior components – including the National Park Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Fish and Wildlife Service and other bureaus – Interior officials want information on enterprisewide social media management tools.” The department is “looking for tools that can manage over 1,000 users that post on third-party social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, YouTube, LinkedIn and Pinterest.”

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

### **New Mexico Official Threatens To Erect Fence To Block Border Patrol**

### **Operations.**

The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that New Mexico Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn, a candidate for US Senate, posted signs along the US-Mexico border Tuesday "aimed at blocking border patrol operations on a one-mile stretch of state trust land over concerns that the federal government is not compensating the state for using the land." Dunn, a Libertarian, told the AP "that if his office can't reach an agreement over an easement with the federal government, he will install a fence to block access to the property." Dunn "said a survey by the Bureau of Land Management and other records show the state owns the entire parcel and that the federal government never received permission from the state to build the border barrier that has existed there for years, or to use the roads in the area."

### **About 100,000 Public Comments Supporting Sage Grouse Plans Missing In Federal Report, Some Say.**

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/6, Richards) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "quietly released the initial report Friday which details responses to potential changes to federal management plans" for the sage grouse. However, "conservation advocates say the summary leaves out about 100,000 comments in support of existing protections." More than 20 conservation groups "say the letters were sent to the appropriate Bureau of Land Management emails and have asked that the agency redo the report to include their comments." Don Smurthwaite, a spokesman from the national office, said, "We're aware of the concern and are checking to ensure that all comments and issues are represented in the final scoping report."

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

#### **Hundreds Of State Lawmakers Ask For 5-year Plan Exemptions.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (3/6) continues coverage of lawmakers' Monday letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke seeking exclusion of "their shores from the department's draft five-year plan for offshore energy development." BOEM officials say Florida "remains a part of the agency's analysis but that Zinke's preferences will be influential in the drafting of the proposed and final versions of the five-year plan." Interior spokesman Alex Hinson said in response, "Creating a Five Year Program is a very open and public process, and Secretary Zinke looks forward to meeting with more Governors and other coastal representatives who want to discuss the draft program. Aside from those important meetings, there is continued outreach by the Department." E&E adds, "BOEM has scheduled 23 meetings, largely in the capitals of coastal states, to solicit public input." In a separate Monday letter, Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and other "senators requested to extend the comment period on the draft plan."

### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

---

### **Coast Guard Responders Harmed By Chemicals Used To Clean Up BP Oil Spill, Research Shows.**

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (3/5, Baurick) reports that for the members of the Coast Guard "who responded to the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, the dangers were clear – an oil platform in flames and then a hole in the seafloor spewing millions of gallons of oil. But what made many Coast Guard members truly afraid was what came after." As the responders "worked to contain the spill, airplanes swooped in low, spraying a mysterious concoction of chemicals. These oil dispersants, BP hoped, would quickly cleanup its monumental mess." A study released by the Uniformed Services University "indicates their fears were well-founded." The research found "the nearly 2,000 Coast Guard members who reported exposure to oil dispersants suffered a range of illnesses – lung irritation, skin rash, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea – at higher rates than members who were not exposed to the chemicals or were exposed to oil alone."

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

#### **South Carolina Residents Criticize Osprey Nest Removal.**

The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that US wildlife officials are "investigating after South Carolina residents complained that a utility removed an osprey's nest from a utility pole." The nest was removed by a South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. crew last week. According to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "a federal investigation is underway."

#### **States To Begin Surveys For Lesser-Prairie Chicken.**

The [AP](#) (3/7) reports that "wildlife managers in several states will begin surveys later this month to track the population of a grouse that has been the focus of an ongoing legal battle over whether it warrants federal protection." According to officials, "aerial surveys for the lesser-prairie chicken in New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas will start March 16 and run through mid-May."

#### **Public Hearing Scheduled On Proposed Kuskokwim King Salmon Restrictions.**

[KYUK-TV](#) Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, AK (3/6, MacArthur) reports that "biologists are expecting another low king salmon run on the Kuskokwim River this summer, and to conserve these stocks, federal managers want to restrict fishing in the same ways as in recent years." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is requesting certain restrictions from the Federal Subsistence Board. The restrictions have "been applied to the federal waters of the Kuskokwim drainage since 2014." The Federal Subsistence Board will hold a hearing on the proposed restrictions on March 14.

### **National Park Service**

---

**2 Arrested At Yellowstone Park's Bison Corral.**

The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that Yellowstone National Park rangers "arrested two people who were trying to chain themselves to a corral where wild bison are held," according to officials. Park spokeswoman Vicki Regula "declined to identify them or say whether they were being detained or charged." The AP cites the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, which "reported the people arrested are affiliated with an advocacy group called Wild Buffalo Defense and seek to draw attention to the slaughter of bison."

**New Marker Notes Confederate General's Role In Slave Trade.**

The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that "a new historical marker in Memphis will point out that a famed Confederate general was a prosperous slave trader before the Civil War." According to the article, "the marker near the site of Nathan Bedford Forrest's early home will be unveiled April 4 on the property of Calvary Episcopal Church, which is sponsoring it along with Rhodes College and the National Park Service." The new marker "says Forrest operated a slave trading business at the site."

**Insular And International Affairs**

---

**DOI Issues \$5M Authorization To Proceed With CUC Projects.**

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (3/7, De La Torre) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs has "issued an authorization to proceed in the amount of \$5 million for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Engineering and Environmental Management Company construction management, the CUC pipeline smart pigging, waste management, and facility drainage projects." OIA grants manager Krystina B. Alfano "notified CNMI Capital Improvement Projects administrator Elizabeth S. Balajadia on Monday of OIA's approval of the authorization to proceed with the projects." Also, the [Marianas Variety](#) (3/7, Manabat) reports that Deputy Attorney General Lillian A. Tenorio "notified the federal court that the CNMI has received the authorization to proceed or ATP from Interior-OIA."

**Breast Cancer Care In U.S. Territories Lags Behind Care In States.**

[Yale University \(CT\)](#) (3/5, Kashef) reports that "older women residing in the U.S territories are less likely to receive recommended or timely care for breast cancer compared with similar women residing in the continental United States, according to Yale researchers." The findings, published in the March issue of Health Affairs, said that "compared to women living in the continental United States (defined as 48 contiguous states, Alaska, and the District of Columbia), women in these territories who had surgical treatment for breast cancer were significantly less likely to receive other recommended care, the researchers said." Cary Gross, M.D., professor of medicine at Yale School of Medicine and senior author of the study, said, "Inferior breast cancer care in U.S. territories is particularly concerning, given that our study focused on a time period prior to Hurricane Maria. Our

findings suggest that efforts to address the devastating impact of the hurricane on the citizens and healthcare infrastructure of the Caribbean territories need to focus on making the system better than it was."

## **US Geological Survey**

---

### **Former Astronaut From Colorado Vows To Shield U.S. Geological Survey From Politics.**

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/6, Eversden) reports, "Senators pressed former astronaut James Reilly of Colorado Springs on his commitment to scientific facts Tuesday at his confirmation hearing to lead the U.S. Geological Survey." Reilly "said throughout his appearance before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources he would maintain the integrity of the agency and refuse to bow to political pressure." Reilly said after the hearing, "Science really depends on integrity. If you don't have the integrity in the data, you can't generate good policy."

A [Mother Jones](#) (3/6, Jula) report focused on questions surrounding the resignation of USGS scientists "last year after political leadership at the Interior Department requested early access to data on oil and gas deposits in Alaska." Sen. Maria Cantwell, the top Democrat on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, "asked Reilly about the controversy." Reilly responded "that he didn't know the details surrounding the departures" of the scientists, "but he suggested that it might sometimes be appropriate for USGS scientists to share sensitive data with officials leading the Interior Department." He said, "In my other occupations up to this point, I always felt like I had a responsibility to deliver information to my leadership, particularly if it had an impact on how the leadership is supposed to respond to it." He added that "if someone within USGS was uncomfortable with such a request in the future, that person would be able to come to him to discuss those concerns." Reilly also said "that if he was ever faced with political pressure to alter scientific findings, he would 'politely decline.'"

Additional coverage was provided by [Science Magazine](#) (3/6, Doyle) and the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/6, Ruskin).

### **Additional Reading.**

- *A Theory Of A "Mega-Tsunami" That Wipes Out The East Coast Was Widely Debunked. Yet It Persists.* [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (3/6, Tolliver).

## **Opinion Pieces**

---

### **Zinke's U-Turn Puts Oil And Gas Industry On Edge.**

A [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Grandoni) "Energy 202" analysis of the Bureau of Land Management's Monday decision to remove "about 17,300 acres of land in central Montana from an upcoming oil and natural gas lease

auction, just a week before the scheduled sale” suggests the move represents “the latest whipsaw in Interior’s oil and gas policy as officials push to auction off a slew of leases near protected areas in the West.” According to the Post, “Environmentalists derided the changes of heart as made for reality TV” even as oil and gas industry representatives “worry about having the certainty they need to pursue projects on public lands at a time when the Trump administration wants to rev up fossil-fuel development as part of its ‘energy dominance’ agenda.”

### **Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Fighting For Us.**

[AmmoLand](#) (3/6) reports that the National Rifle Association’s Institute for Legislative Action marked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s one year anniversary as Secretary of the Interior and applauded “his numerous accomplishments.” Chris W. Cox, NRA-ILA executive director, said, “On day one Secretary Zinke hit the ground running by lifting the last administration’s ban on traditional ammunition – and he hasn’t slowed down since. He’s expanded hunting and fishing opportunities on federal lands, forged new efforts to encourage veteran hunting and fishing, and recently announced the department’s prioritization of big game corridors to improve wildlife habitat. Secretary Zinke is fighting for us – America’s hunters – each and every day.”

### **St. John Needs A New Public School.**

In an op-ed for the [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (3/6, Ellis), Catherine Ellis writes that Hurricane Irma “caused horrendous damage to St. John’s buildings,” including Sprauve School. Ellis argues that recovery money from the federal government should go toward a new school for St. John.

### **Additional Coverage.**

- *Killing For Sport.* [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Telnaes).
- *What Westerners Take For Granted.* [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/6, Couch).
- *North Carolina’s Red Wolf Is Again On The Verge Of Disappearing From The Wild.* [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (3/6, Hunt).

## **Top National News**

---

### **Amid GOP Opposition, Trump Reiterates He Will Levy Tariffs On Steel, Aluminum Imports.**

In a White House press conference with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, the President yesterday reiterated his intention to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum. The media coverage highlights the strong and vocal opposition to the move on the part of Republican leaders in Congress. Also getting media play is Trump’s stated rationale for his decision. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/6, Mohsin, Jacobs, Edgerton) reports the President dismissed



"concerns about a global trade war" and said "the US has suffered from poor trading conditions with other nations, including those in the European Union." Said Trump, "When we're behind every single country, trade wars aren't so bad. ... The trade war hurts them, not us."

The AP (3/6, Thomas, Mascaro) quotes Trump as saying, "We're doing tariffs on steel. We cannot lose our steel industry. It's a fraction of what it once was. And we can't lose our aluminum industry." The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Ballhaus, Radnofsky) reports the President went on to say, "If a country doesn't have steel, it doesn't have a country. ... This is more than just pure economics. This is about defense. This is about the country itself." Breitbart (3/6, Key) notes, meanwhile, that Trump also "said his tariffs on steel and aluminum would be implemented in a 'very loving way.'"

Bloomberg News (3/6, Mohsin, Jacobs, Edgerton) reports Trump "spoke just hours after his Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin, sought to offer assurances during congressional testimony that the US didn't want to start a trade war." The AP (3/6, Thomas, Mascaro) notes Mnuchin "told lawmakers Trump was trying to balance protections for beleaguered steel and aluminum producers while 'making sure that we don't do undue harm to the economy.'" The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Davidson) quotes Mnuchin as saying, "We are not looking to get into trade wars. ... We are looking to make sure US companies can compete fairly around the world."

Reuters (3/6, Cornwell, Gomez) reports GOP lawmakers "stepped up calls on Tuesday for... Trump to pull back from proposed tariffs," as Senate Majority Leader McConnell "added to an avalanche of criticism" and Speaker Ryan "returned to the attack on Tuesday, saying the proposed duties of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum were too broad." Ryan, "whose home state of Wisconsin could be hit by proposed counter-tariffs from the European Union, has consistently opposed the tariffs and called for 'more surgical and more targeted measures.'" Roll Call (3/6, McPherson) quotes Ryan as saying, "There is clearly abuse occurring; clearly there is overcapacity, dumping and transshipping of steel and aluminum by some countries, particularly China. ... But I think the smarter way to go is to make it more surgical and more targeted." The Los Angeles Times (3/6, Decker), meanwhile, notes that McConnell, "who has repeatedly talked to the president since his surprise declaration last week, said that Republican senators are worried 'about interfering with what appears to be an economy taking off.'" Said the Kentucky senator, "We are urging caution that this [not] develop into something much more dramatic that could send the economy in the wrong direction."

The dispute with Trump, the Washington Examiner (3/6, Ferrechio) reports, "has some Republicans so worried that they're considering legislation to curtail the power of the president to control trade policy." Sen. Mike Lee "introduced a bill in June that would shift the power to impose trade regulations back to Congress after decades of control by the executive branch." The measure "would require congressional approval of

all executive branch trade actions, including tariffs." Now, "in the face of Trump's tariff threat, Lee's bill is suddenly being discussed, and Lee hinted Monday it could be up for discussion." Sen. Ron Johnson said yesterday, "I would certainly support it." GOP leaders, however, said "it's too soon to threaten legislative action." Said Sen. Roy Blunt, "I don't think we are at a point where we need to consider that bill yet."


Dana Milbank, in a Washington Post (3/6) column titled "Finally, Trump Does Something Republicans Can't Stomach," accuses Republicans of standing by Trump "through all manner of outrage," and looked "the other way when presented with Trump's alleged sexual misconduct, racial provocations, conflicts of interest, cowboy diplomacy and assaults on the rule of law. But slapping a tariff on foreign metals? That crosses the line."


The New York Times (3/6, Russell) reports in an analysis that while China "was mentioned only in broad terms when President Trump announced plans to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports," it was "a major driver behind the action." Although China "makes large amounts of steel and aluminum, flooding the global market with cheap products," targeting it alone "wouldn't work" because it "sends only a tiny fraction of its output to the United States. Chinese steel makers serve mostly Asian markets." Thus, the Administration "must go much broader with its tariffs." The Times says that by "taking aim at China's steel makers with broad tariffs, the United States could hurt its trusted allies."

USA Today (3/6) editorializes that "perhaps Trump was absent from high school history class for the discussion of the infamous Smoot-Hawley Act, signed by Herbert Hoover in 1930 in a disastrous bid to 'protect' the US economy" but which actually made "the Great Depression...even more severe." USA Today adds that "more recently, President George W. Bush imposed steel tariffs as high as 30% in 2002," but they "were gone by the end of 2003." David B. Burritt, president and CEO of US Steel, responds in USA Today (3/6), arguing that "those opposing...Trump's decision...dangerously ignore the Commerce Department's detailed findings that steel imports threaten our national and economic security." Megan McArdle writes in the Washington Post (3/6, McArdle) that "steel and aluminum tariffs are not going to devastate household budgets. Nor, as some of the more emotional social media coverage suggested, are they harbingers of economic apocalypse. No, the real risk is to exactly the thing Trump is promising to save: American jobs."

***Trump: If EU Removes "Horrible Barriers" To US Products, "We Can Start Talking" About Tariffs.*** Politico (3/6, Lima) notes it was Trump's "first joint public appearance with the leader of a European Union member since announcing his plan for tariffs on aluminum and steel imports last week." Trump singled out the EU for its trade practices toward the US, stating, "The European Union has been particularly tough on the United States. ... They make it almost impossible for us to do business with them." The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Ballhaus, Radnofsky) reports the President appeared to suggest his Administration could consider excluding the EU from the

tariffs if its trade policies were altered. Said Trump, "If the European Union takes off some of the horrible barriers that make it impossible for our products to go into there, then we can start talking."

The Hill (3/6, Easley), meanwhile, says "Löfven offered opposition to Trump's face," and said, "I'm convinced that increased tariffs will hurt us all in the long run. ... As a Swede I support the efforts of the European Union to achieve trade with fewer obstacles, as few as possible."  Fox News' Special Report (3/6) showed Löfven saying, "I fully understand and respect the president's view that we have to look after his own country. ... That's my task as well. But for me, leading a small country, depending on open trade, the best way for us is to do that with others."

***Mnuchin: Tariffs May Not Apply To NAFTA Nations If Treaty Is Redrafted.*** The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Davidson) indicates that Mnuchin – echoing comments from the President the day before – addressed the effect of the tariffs on Mexico and Canada.  Fox News' Special Report (3/6) showed Mnuchin saying, "To the extent that we're successful in renegotiating NAFTA, those tariffs won't apply to Mexico and Canada."

Breitbart (3/6, Carney), meanwhile, reports "Mexico's top trade official threatened Tuesday to retaliate against the US if the Trump administration moves ahead with plans to put tariffs that include Mexico." Said economic minister Ildefonso Guajardo, "There's a list that we are analyzing internally, but we won't make it public, we're going to wait."

***AP Analysis: Steel Industry "Actually Faring Pretty Well."*** The AP (3/6, Wiseman) reports that "the Trump administration has chosen an odd time to offer special protection to the US steel industry," which is "actually faring pretty well: The US steel industry last year earned more than \$2.8 billion, up from \$714 million in 2016 and a loss in 2015, according to the Commerce Department." Moreover, "the industry added more than 8,000 jobs between January 2017 and January 2018." The AP adds that "even before Trump mentioned the tariff last Thursday, the price of the benchmark US-made hot-rolled steel had reached the highest level since May 2011, according to S&P Global Platts. The price surged even higher on the tariff news."

***Stocks Finish Higher.*** Reuters (3/6, Carew) reports "US stocks eked out a small gain on Tuesday after a choppy session as investors worried about the prospects of a trade war due to mixed signals from Washington on whether...Trump would follow through with proposed tariffs." The Dow "rose 9.36 points, or 0.04 percent, to close at 24,884.12, the S&P 500 gained 7.18 points, or 0.26 percent, to 2,728.12 and the Nasdaq Composite added 41.30 points, or 0.56 percent, to 7,372.01."

### **Cohn Resigns White House Post After Losing Internal Debate Over Tariffs.**

Media analyses cast reports that Gary Cohn had decided to leave his job with the Administration as further evidence of a White House in disarray. The coverage indicated, moreover, that Cohn's resignation follows a

bruising internal debate over trade, in which he ended up on the losing side. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/6, story 4, 1:40, Karl) said "Cohn is, or I should say, was, the most widely respected member of the White House staff. He was the one who could stand up and tell the President when he was wrong. His departure...will have repercussions far beyond economic policy here at the White House." The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/6, lead story, 2:00, Cordes) reported that "this is a blow" for the White House, and added that "as recently as last Friday, the White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders was insisting to reporters that Cohn would not be stepping down over the President's surprise move on tariffs." [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/6, story 3, 2:25, Welker), meanwhile, referred to Cohn as "the latest in a long line of high-profile departures."

The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Kelly) was first with the story, reporting that Cohn is "expected to leave in the coming weeks," and that "White House officials said" he "was leaving on cordial terms with the president and that they planned to continue discussing policy even after his departure." Trump said in a statement to the Times, "Gary has been my chief economic adviser and did a superb job in driving our agenda, helping to deliver historic tax cuts and reforms and unleashing the American economy once again." The Times also reports that "the departure of Mr. Cohn, a free-trade oriented Democrat who fended off a number of nationalist-minded policies during his year in the Trump administration, could have a ripple effect on the president's economic decisions and on the financial sector." The [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Paletta, Rucker) says "in many ways, Cohn's NEC was one of the most stable parts of the White House, avoiding the scandals and revolving-door image that the National Security Council and other offices endured."

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/6), "It has been a chaotic week after chaotic week at this White House. The only thing that stands out is when there is not chaos here at the White House because it happens so rarely. I think when you have the top economic adviser resigning from the White House because the President is about to slap tariffs on US allies like Great Britain and so on, I don't think it is any surprise that Gary Cohn is doing this." Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/6) that "a lot of people saw Gary Cohn as one of the people left in the White House who actually understood economic policy and knows how to manage."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Paletta, Dawsey) reports that "establishment figures in Washington," including "national security leaders, top lawmakers, the former president of Goldman Sachs," have "suddenly found themselves in a losing battle with a small posse of Trump advisers who have nurtured the president's long-running skepticism of foreign trade." Their "last-ditch efforts to get Trump to scale back, if not reverse, the tariffs came after a power struggle within the White House where Cohn," Defense Secretary Mattis, "and others routinely tried to dissuade Trump from launching what many fear will be a trade war that could rattle

the world's largest economies."

The New York Times (3/6, Baker) reports that while Cohn "is a Democrat...his resignation...actually underscored the fundamental divide between President Trump and his fellow Republicans as the president seeks to raise barriers to foreign trade." At the White House, he "in effect served as a proxy for the business wing of the Republican Party as it fought what may be a losing battle against new tariffs on steel and aluminum imports." Now "his departure deprives free trade proponents of perhaps their strongest voice inside Mr. Trump's inner circle."

John Roberts said on Fox News' Special Report (3/6), "So much for all of the talk that Gary Cohn was going to replace John Kelly as the chief of staff here at the White House. There was also some thought among some people at the White House that as soon as there was a cabinet vacancy, that Gary Cohn could be tapped to replace that person. We are told that Gary Cohn was so well-thought-of here at the White House that he could have filled out a number of different cabinet positions."

USA Today (3/6, Korte, Jackson) reports Chief of Staff Kelly said Cohn "served with great distinction," and he added, "I will miss having him as a partner in the White House, but he departs having made a real impact in the lives of the American people." Cohn, for his part, "said it was an honor to help 'enact pro-growth economic policies to benefit the American people' and expressed gratitude for the opportunity." He added, "I am grateful to the President for giving me this opportunity and wish him and the Administration great success in the future." Axios (3/6, Swan) says, however, that Cohn "disagreed with Trump on just about every issue besides tax cuts," and "was, and is, a Democrat." The AP (3/6) also reports "Trump praised Cohn despite" their "disagreement" on trade, and the Washington Post (3/6, Paletta, Rucker) reports that "Cohn spent months trying to steer Trump away from tariffs and trade wars," but was "eventually being outmaneuvered by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, trade advisor Peter Navarro, and ultimately Trump himself."

NPR (3/6, Horsley) reported that it was "not the first time Cohn has come close to quitting." He "nearly resigned last summer, when the president appeared to defend those who marched alongside neo-Nazis and Klansmen in Charlottesville." Moreover, "as a leader of the 'globalist' wing in the White House, Cohn was also overruled when the president announced plans to withdraw the US from the Paris climate accord."

Reuters (3/6), the Washington Examiner (3/6, Correll), the New York Post (3/6, Fredericks), Townhall (3/6, Pavlich), and the Wall Street Journal (3/6, Ballhaus, Hoffman), among other news outlets, also report the news. Bloomberg News (3/6, Sink, Campbell, Pettypiece) says "the dollar slid and an exchange-traded fund linked to US stocks tumbled in after-hours trading on the resignation news. The greenback fell 0.4 percent against the yen, often a haven in turmoil, to 105.66 as of 7:48 a.m. in Tokyo trading. The SPDR S&P 500 ETF trust, linked to the S&P 500 Index of stocks, was down 1.2 percent." NBC Nightly News (3/6, story 3, 2:25, Welker)

showed Eason Javers of CNBC saying, "Short term, this could be a bad news for the stock market. Traders in Wall Street like Gary Cohn. They've got a lot of confidence in him. Long term, this removes one of the architects of Donald Trump's economic success from this Administration. Where they go from here is a real open question."

Eli Lake of Bloomberg View said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/6), "Gary Cohn comes from Goldman Sachs. That is something that is in some ways both left and right and neither left nor right. It represents the center of American politics. This is a significant blow. In some ways, I think it does show a kind of fracture of American politics in a deep way. The fact that so many Republicans in Congress and a lot of Democrats in Congress are really uncomfortable with the tariff policy, and we'll see how far it can go. But the President has a lot of authority here."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6) bemoans Cohn's departure, arguing the controversy over tariffs has cost the President an essential adviser. The [New York Times](#) (3/6) similarly editorializes that "[i]n an administration filled with people with dubious ideas, limited experience and loads of ethical baggage," Cohn "was supposed to be among the sensible adults in the room. Now, he is leaving after failing repeatedly to be the stabilizing influence that the Trump administration sorely needed."

Rep. Charlie Dent said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (3/6), "There has certainly been, in my view, a lot of dysfunction in the White House. I have used the term 'chaos' to describe the activity in the White House for some time. There has been unusually high turnover, as has been pointed out in many occasions. Now with Gary Cohn leaving, who I think in many respects has been a very constructive force in the White House on tax policy and on trade policy, I think it is a big loss for the White House. Yes, I don't think 'chaos' is too strong a word."

Sen. Chris Coons said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/6), "The idea that Gary Cohn is departing largely over the timing and the deliberation, or the lack thereof, behind the President's abrupt announcement of large tariffs that will distance us from the key trading partners and close allies is just a reminder that his love of conflict has real consequences. Dow futures for tomorrow are already down 300 points. The President loves to take credit when the Dow goes up. I wonder if he will take any of the responsibility with the Dow likely going down with Gary Cohn's abrupt departure."

***Axios' Swan: Trump Canceled Meeting Called By Cohn To Press Him On Tariffs Decision.*** [Business Insider](#) (3/6, Bryan) reports Cohn "attempted to set up a last-ditch effort to get Trump to soften the tariffs by arranging a meeting with business executives who would be hurt by the new tariffs, which function as a tax on imports." *Axios'* Jonathan Swan, however, wrote on [Twitter](#) that he was "told Trump had cancelled the last-ditch meeting Gary had arranged on Thursday with the downstream steel and aluminum companies."

***Trump Wants To Consider Kudlow To Replace Cohn.*** The Washington Post (3/6, Paletta, Rucker) reports Trump "could cast a wide net in searching for a replacement" for Cohn, "though he has told advisers that he wants to consider Larry Kudlow, a media personality and 2016 campaign adviser, according to several people briefed on Trump's discussions."

***Earlier Yesterday, Trump Touted "Tremendous Energy" At White House, Predicted More Departures.*** The AP (3/6, Miller, Lemire) reports that ahead of Cohn's announcement, the President "denied Tuesday that his White House is chaotic, but predicted more staff will leave, as allies and observers worry about West Wing brain drain." Trump "maintained that his White House has 'tremendous energy,' but multiple White House officials said Trump has been pushing anxious aides to stay." Trump "acknowledged that he is a tough boss to work for, saying he enjoys watching his closest aides fight over policy." ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 3, 1:45, Karl) showed Trump saying, "I like conflict. I like having two people with different points of view. And I certainly have that. And then I make a decision. But I like watching it. I like seeing it and I think it is the best way to go." Of his staff, Trump also said, "They all want to be in the White House. So many people want to come in. I have a choice of anybody. I can take any position in the White House, and I'll have a choice of the ten top people having to do with that position."

The President also tweeted, "The new Fake News narrative is that there is CHAOS in the White House. Wrong! People will always come & go, and I want strong dialogue before making a final decision. I still have some people that I want to change (always seeking perfection). There is no Chaos, only great Energy!" The New York Times (3/6, Sullivan) reports that the tweet "was an odd defense for a man who has thrived on chaos and has used it as a way to both organize people and manage them." Politico (3/6, Nelson) points out that Trump "even joked about the chaos at Saturday's annual Gridiron Club dinner, joking: 'So many people have been leaving the White House. It's invigorating, since you want turnover. I like chaos. It really is good. Who's going to be the next to leave?'"

Amy Walter of the Cook Political Report said on Fox News' Special Report (3/6), "I think that the chaos is part of the strategy. It's not a bug in the system. It is the system. This is where the President feels the most comfortable, being in a situation where it looks as if there is no order, and he seems to be the most comfortable in that. But a lot of people, that's not how they like to work, and it is also a very difficult way to push strategy."

### **Trump Takes Credit For Apparent North Korea's Willingness To Negotiate Giving Up Nukes.**

Media reports cast President Trump as cautiously optimistic amid reports from Seoul on Tuesday that North Korea is willing to halt its nuclear and missile tests and engage in disarmament talks with the US. The President pointed to tough, new international sanctions imposed on Pyongyang, as

well as his hard line toward North Korea, as the reason for its change of heart.

Calling it a "major development," the CBS Evening News (3/6, story 2, 3:30, Glor) reported Trump "expressed cautious optimism about North Korea's apparent willingness to negotiate," saying, "We're going to see. They seem to be acting positively. I think that their statement and the statements coming out of South Korea and North Korea have been very positive. That would be a great thing for the world, great thing for the world. So we'll see how it all comes about." Asked later at a press conference why he thought Kim Jong-Un "may have had a change of heart," Trump said, "I think that they are sincere, but I think they're sincere, also, because the sanctions and what we're doing with respect to North Korea, including the great help that we've been given from China, and they can do more. But the sanctions have been very strong and very biting."

Bloomberg News (3/6, Kong, Lee, Syeed) reports Trump told reporters that "his tough stance was responsible for Kim's willingness to talk, joking the overture should be credited to 'me.'" The Daily Caller (3/6, Enjeti) also reports the President's "me" comment, and NBC Nightly News (3/6, story 4, 2:20, Holt) said the President is "crediting his hard-line against North Korea for the conditions that led to the successful Olympics." Trump was shown saying: "We had a lot to do with that, if not, everything, we had a lot to do with it. ... Let's see if we can carry it over." Politico (3/6, Lima) likewise says Trump credited tough new sanctions, while Breitbart (3/6, Spiering) says he also recalled that South Korean President Moon Jae-in "gave him credit for the successful talks between North and South Korea."

The Washington Times (3/6, Miller) says Trump "welcomed the turn of events with a note of caution," and the AP (3/6, Superville, Pennington) that a "cautious...Trump spoke of possible progress," but warned it could also be "false hope." Early Tuesday, Trump tweeted, "Possible progress being made in talks with North Korea. For the first time in many years, a serious effort is being made by all parties concerned. The World is watching and waiting! May be false hope, but the US is ready to go hard in either direction!" USA Today (3/6, Onyanga-Omara, Michaels) reports that in "another tweet Tuesday accompanying a link to a Drudge Report article that Kim was hosting the delegation from Seoul," Trump wrote: "We will see what happens!"

The New York Times (3/6, Choe, Landler) reports Trump reacted early Tuesday morning on Twitter "with guarded optimism to the news," but "expounded on his reaction later to reporters during an Oval Office meeting with Prime Minister Stefan Lofven of Sweden," saying, "We have come certainly a long way, at least rhetorically, with North Korea. The statements coming out of South Korea and North Korea have been very positive. That would be a great thing for the world." Asked if he would meet with Kim, Trump said, "We'll see what happens." Reuters (3/5,



Mason, Kim) reports Trump "declined to say whether he had any preconditions for talks with Pyongyang," but a senior Administration official said, "We are open minded, we look forward to hearing more. But...the North Koreans have earned our skepticism, so we're a bit guarded in our optimism."

USA Today (3/6, Korte, Jackson) reports Trump "declined to say whether he would establish preconditions for talks with North Korea," and the Wall Street Journal (3/6, Cheng, Bender, Jeong) says Administration officials stopped short of committing to talks with Pyongyang. The Hill (3/6, Fabian) reports Vice President Pence, however, said in a statement Tuesday that "all options are on the table and our posture toward the regime will not change until we see credible, verifiable, and concrete steps toward denuclearization."

ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 7, 1:40, Muir) said the "major development...came after a very rare meeting between Kim Jong-Un and South Korean officials" in Pyongyang. Afterwards, Seoul said the North "offered to stop testing weapons if the US agrees to talks." While the President appeared to be somewhat optimistic, the US intelligence community "weighed in on this today, basically saying they are deeply skeptical, noting that North Korea has a 60-year long track record of breaking promises." Margaret Brennan similarly said on the CBS Evening News (3/6, story 3, 1:20, Glor) that while "this is the clearest diplomatic outreach we have seen so far...the Administration remains skeptical, not only because the North has a pattern of breaking past agreements, but also because they question whether US ally South Korea may be overeager for the US to begin these talks."

The AP (3/6, Kim, Burns) reports that a "senior South Korean presidential adviser" said Tuesday that Kim had agreed to meet with South Korean President Moon Jae-in "at a border village in late April." The Washington Post (3/6, Fifield), however, reports that North Korea "did not confirm South Korea's version of events," saying simply that the two sides "made a satisfactory agreement" during the meeting.

Reuters (3/6, Lambert) reports the State Department said Tuesday that the US and South Korea "are discussing holding a meeting later this week about potential denuclearization talks with North Korea." According to the Los Angeles Times (3/6, Parsons), Kim's "apparent offer stunned many regional security experts and analysts in Washington."

A New York Times (3/6, Landler) analysis says a breakthrough is unlikely, noting that "diplomacy between the United States and North Korea has gone through familiar cycles of long stagnation, followed by brief bursts of hope and then inevitable disappointment, typically after North Korea reneged." A second New York Times (3/6, Landler, Sanger) analysis says that while Trump "has vowed not to repeat what he regarded as the cardinal error of his predecessors in dealing with North Korea," he now faces "a prospect uncannily similar to that confronted by Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama."

A Wall Street Journal (3/6) editorial is skeptical that North Korea is prepared to make any real concessions, and urges that any deal with Pyongyang must be structured so that it is rewarded only after it denuclearizes and allows unlimited inspections.

***WPost: Trump's "Maximum Pressure" On North Korea "Is Working."*** A Washington Post (3/6) editorial says that if confirmed by Pyongyang, "the shift of position would mark a success for the Trump administration's policy of applying 'maximum pressure' to North Korea and open the possibility of a needed reduction of tensions on the Korean Peninsula." The question, it says, "is whether President Trump is prepared to capitalize on the opportunity." According to the Post, it is "not clear whether the Trump administration is ready for this diplomatic challenge," but a "good first step in response to Tuesday's developments would be for Mr. Trump to fill" the empty positions at the State Department in the region "with seasoned experts," and then "set them to work devising a serious and pragmatic strategy for engaging with the Kim regime — without sacrificing, for now, 'maximum pressure.'"

The New York Times (3/6) similarly editorializes that the Administration "has been loath to enter into negotiations that would have a similar fate" as its predecessors, and "there is no evidence of the United States having any mechanism to implement a strategy for talks. There is no American ambassador in Seoul, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has so eviscerated the State Department that he may not be capable of effectively moving forward. Joseph Yun, the chief American envoy to North Korea and the one senior person who actually knows the portfolio and has met with North Koreans, retired last week, a decision that can only be interpreted as a further sign of the administration's inept handling of the issue."

***US Sanctions North Korea Over Use Of Nerve Agent In Assassination.*** The New York Times (3/6, Gladstone) reports the State Department said Tuesday that the US has imposed new sanctions on North Korea for ordering the assassination last year of leader Kim Jong-Un's estranged half brother with a banned nerve agent. Kim Jong-nam was killed Feb. 13, 2017, with VX, "a deadly nerve agent used in prohibited chemical weapons of mass destruction that North Korea is known to have stockpiled." The State Department said that the US had formally determined that "North Korea was responsible and that the sanctions took effect on Monday."

***NYTimes Analysis: Trump's Trade Plan Threatens To Derail Korean Talks.*** The New York Times (3/6, Swanson) reports that President Trump's plan to impose stiff steel tariffs would "severely punish South Korea...at a moment when America is embarking on a series of high-stakes negotiations to defuse tensions on the Korean Peninsula." If talks materialize, the US "will need the close partnership of South Korea," but the Times says the Administration in recent months has "alienated the South's leaders by initiating a series of tough trade measures that seek to penalize the country for exporting more goods to the United States than it imports."

## Editorial Wrap-Up

---

### New York Times.

**"Gary Cohn's Exit Won't Make This Administration Any Better."** The [New York Times](#) (3/6) editorializes that "in an administration filled with people with dubious ideas, limited experience and loads of ethical baggage," Gary Cohn "was supposed to be among the sensible adults in the room. Now, he is leaving after failing repeatedly to be the stabilizing influence that the Trump administration sorely needed."

**"Famine Stalks South Sudan."** The [New York Times](#) (3/6) editorializes that the United States should press the UN Security Council for an arms embargo for South Sudan, particularly given the "special responsibility" the US bears for the country's dreadful state. The editors also argue that European donors and the African Union should join US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley in letting the leaders of the two sides in South Sudan's current conflict "know that they are far too big a part of the problem to ever become part of the solution."

**"North Korea Has Put The Ball In Trump's Court."** The [New York Times](#) (3/6) editorializes that the Administration "has been loath to enter into negotiations that would have a similar fate" as its predecessors, and "there is no evidence of the United States having any mechanism to implement a strategy for talks. There is no American ambassador in Seoul, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has so eviscerated the State Department that he may not be capable of effectively moving forward. Joseph Yun, the chief American envoy to North Korea and the one senior person who actually knows the portfolio and has met with North Koreans, retired last week, a decision that can only be interpreted as a further sign of the administration's inept handling of the issue."

### Washington Post.

**"Trump's 'Maximum Pressure' On North Korea Is Working. Now What?"** A [Washington Post](#) (3/6) editorial says that if confirmed by Pyongyang, North Korea's "shift of position would mark a success for the Trump administration's policy of applying 'maximum pressure' to North Korea and open the possibility of a needed reduction of tensions on the Korean Peninsula." The question, it says, "is whether President Trump is prepared to capitalize on the opportunity." According to the Post, it is "not clear whether the Trump administration is ready for this diplomatic challenge," but a "good first step in response to Tuesday's developments would be for Mr. Trump to fill" the empty positions at the State Department in the region "with seasoned experts," and then "set them to work devising a serious and pragmatic strategy for engaging with the Kim regime — without sacrificing, for now, 'maximum pressure.'"

**"The Public Has Spoken On Gun Control. Don't Wait For The White House."** The [Washington Post](#) (3/6) says in an editorial that instead of "trying to decipher signals from a president who changes his mind by the

hour, lawmakers should listen to the public they are elected to represent." The public's message "has been clear: It's time to end the decades-long stalemate on gun control and enact laws to keep guns from falling into the wrong hands." The Post cites a Politico-Morning Consult poll which "showed that 88 percent of Americans now support universal background checks, 81 percent think a person should be at least 21 to buy a gun, 70 percent favor a ban on high-capacity magazines and 68 percent think assault-style weapons should be banned," and argues that if lawmakers "ignore the public's clamor for reasonable gun-control legislation, voters should use the upcoming midterm elections to reiterate the message."

***"Who Knew About The Improper Transfer Of The DC School Chancellor's Daughter?"*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/6) calls it "striking" that former DC Public Schools chancellor Antwan Wilson claims "that he did nothing wrong when his daughter bypassed the system's competitive lottery to transfer to one of the city's most desirable high schools – even though the transfer violated a rule that Mr. Wilson himself had promulgated only months before." The Post adds that Wilson's claim that DC Mayor Muriel Bowser "knew and had no objections to plans to transfer his daughter from Duke Ellington School for the Arts, where she was unhappy, must be investigated." Noting that Bowser denies the claim, the Post says her "credibility [is] under challenge in an election year," and urges DC Inspector General Daniel W. Lucas, who is investigating the matter, to give it "top priority" and "report to the public as expeditiously as possible."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

***"North Korea's Negotiation Play."*** A [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6) editorial is skeptical that North Korea is prepared to make any real concessions, and urges that any deal with Pyongyang must be structured so that it is rewarded only after it denuclearizes and allows unlimited inspections.

***"The Cohn Departure."*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6) bemoans Gary Cohn's departure from the White House, arguing the controversy over tariffs has cost the President an essential adviser.

***"California's Water Hole."*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6) criticizes the California Water Commission for trying to avoid providing the necessary funding for several approved water conservation projects, including projects to expand storage and improve flood control. The Journal says the reluctance is being driven by environmentalists who oppose dams on principle, and that storms hitting the state will cause large amounts of wasted water without the projects.

### **Big Picture**

---

#### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

##### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[Gary Cohn Resigns As White House Economic Adviser After Losing Tariffs Fight](#)

Trump Administration Praises North Korean Overture, But Remains Wary  
The New ID Theft: Millions Of Credit Applicants Who Don't Exist  
CVS Bets Big With \$40 Billion Bond Sale

***New York Times:***

Raising Hopes, North Korea Offers To Talk On Nuclear Arsenal  
Gary Cohn, Top Economic Aide, To Resign Amid Tariff Dispute  
US-China Rivalry Is, More Than Ever, A Fight Over Tech  
Adviser To Emirates Is Cooperating With Special Counsel  
In Russian Ex-Spy's Poisoning, An Echo Of The Cold War

***Washington Post:***

N. Korean Overture Is "Sincere," Trump Says  
Leaving Their Hearts Behind In Puerto Rico  
Spy Drama In Britain Has Eyes Turning Toward Russia  
Crackdown On Truancy Imperils Graduations  
Justice Dept. Sues California On "Sanctuary" Laws  
Foe Of Tariffs To Quit Post

***Financial Times:***

CVS Jumbo Bond Attracts Record \$121bn In Book Orders  
North Korea Says It Is "Open To Ending Nuclear Programme"  
Poroshenko Fends Off IMF Demands For Anti-Corruption Court  
US Security Committee Warns On Broadcom Takeover Of Qualcomm

***Washington Times:***

Trump Takes Credit For Kim Jong-Un's Sudden Shift On Talks  
Justice Department Suing California Over Sanctuary Laws  
Victory 'Is Not Possible' — Pakistani Official Implores U.S. To End War With Afghan Taliban  
ER Visits For Opioid Overdoses Up 30 Percent In One Year  
Christopher Steele Knew Democrats Funding Trump Dossier Before FBI Sought FISA Warrant  
Betsy DeVos Pressed To Toss Obama's Lenient School-Discipline Directive

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Gary Cohn Resignation; WH-Russia Meddling; Pittsburgh Train Crash; UK-Ex-Russian Spy; North-South Korea Relations; USA Gymnastics Sex Abuse; Big Game Trophies Ban; Nashville Mayor Resignation; Dayton-Traffic Accident; WV-Teachers Strike; Asteroid Flyby; Child Portrait; Sunken WWII Warship.

**CBS:** Gary Cohn Resignation; WH-North-South Korea Relations; North-South Korea Relations; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Opioid Crisis; Congo-Child Labor; WV-Teachers Strike; Nashville Mayor Resignation; Flying Car; Presidential History.

**NBC:** Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Gary Cohn Resignation; North-

South Korea Relations; Nashville Mayor Resignation; WV-Teachers Strike; Plastic Ocean Pollution; Vaping Safety Warning; Child Portrait; McDonald's Fresh Meat; Message Bottle; Children Show Streaming.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Severe Weather – 9 minutes, 30 seconds  
 North-South Korea Relations – 8 minutes, 50 seconds  
 Gary Cohn Resignation – 6 minutes, 10 seconds  
 Nashville Mayor Resignation – 3 minutes, 55 seconds  
 WV-Teachers Strike – 2 minutes, 40 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Gary Cohn Resignation; Stormy Daniels-Trump Relationship; DOJ-Sanctuary Cities; Severe Weather; Playboy Mention; Wall Street News.

**CBS:** DOJ-Sanctuary Cities; Gary Cohn Resignation; Stormy Daniels-Trump Relationship; Opioid Epidemic; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Gary Cohn Resignation; WH-Tariff Policy; Stormy Daniels-Trump Relationship.

**NPR:** Gary Cohn Resignation; DOJ-Sanctuary Cities; WH-North-South Korea Relations; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks at the Latino Coalition Legislative Summit.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Attends America First Policies event on the tax bill.

**US Senate:** 9:30 AM Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on security clearance reform – Hearing on 'Security Clearance Reform', with testimony from ManTech President and CEO Kevin Phillips; Raytheon Vice President for Intelligence, Information, and Services Jane Chappell; Government Accountability Office's Brenda Farrell; Professional Services Council President David Berteau; National Background Investigation Bureau Director Charlie Phalen; National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) Assistant Director for Security Brian Dunbar; Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Director for Defense Intelligence and Security Garry Reid; and Defense Security Service Director Dan Payne \* Last month, the White House discontinued all interim Top Secret and Sensitive Compartmented Information-level security clearances for individuals whose investigations or adjudications have been pending since 1 Jun or before, including President Donald Trump's Senior Adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM House / Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees hear legislative presentation from vets group – House Committee on Veterans

Affairs and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs joint hearing on 'Legislative Presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States', with testimony from VFW National Commander in Chief Keith Harman, National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, Washington Office Executive Director Bob Wallace, National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes, and National Legislative Committee Chairman Richard Morrison Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers John Nalbandian to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; Kari Dooley to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Connecticut; Dominic Lanza to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona; Jill Aiko Otake to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Hawaii; and Joseph Hunt to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Business Meeting continues – Business Meeting continues, with agenda including consideration of nomination of Michael Atkinson to be Intelligence Community Inspector General, as well as 'H.R. 2825, Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act' \* Hearing began 28 Feb Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:30 AM Interior Secretary Zinke and GOP senators discuss the National Park Restoration Act – Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Republican Sens. Lamar Alexander, Steve Daines, and Cory Gardner discuss the introduction of the 'National Park Restoration Act', via press conference \* The bill is designed to help restore and rebuild national parks by using revenues from energy production on federal lands to help pay for the \$11 billion National Park maintenance backlog, including roads, buildings, campgrounds, trails, and water systems Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC [alexander.senate.gov](http://alexander.senate.gov) <https://twitter.com/SenAlexander>

10:30 AM Senate Budget Committee hearing on DoD audit and business operations reform – Hearing on 'Department of Defense Audit and Business Operations Reform at the Pentagon', with testimony from Under Secretary of Defense and DoD Comptroller and CFO David Norquist; and DoD Chief Management Officer John Gibson II Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 608, Washington, DC <http://budget.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateBudget>

1:00 PM Senate Aging Committee hearing on scams – Hearing on 'Stopping Senior Scams', with testimony from scam victims Stephen and Rita Shiman; AARP Washington State Director Doug Shadel; AARP Pennsylvania Consumer Issues Task Force Chair Mary Bach; and Stop Senior Scams Acting Program founder Adrienne Omansky Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Hearing on 'The Economic Report of the President', with testimony from Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett  
Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC  
[www.jec.senate.gov](http://www.jec.senate.gov) <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

2:30 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on small business bankruptcy – Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts Subcommittee hearing on 'Small Business Bankruptcy: Assessing the System', with testimony from Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson Co-Chair Robert Keach; Brooklyn Law School Professor Edward Janger; and Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr partner Craig Goldblatt Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Joseph Macmanus to be U.S. Ambassador to Colombia; Marie Royce to be Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs; Robin Bernstein to be U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic; and Edward Charles Prado to be U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

4:00 PM Senate Democrats hearing on protecting children from gun violence – 'America Speaks Out: Protecting Our Children from Gun Violence' Senate Democrats hearing, co-hosted by Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Bill Nelson, with testimony from survivors of gun violence and family members who want Congress to take swift action to strengthen the nation's gun laws, including 17-year old Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student David Hogg; Fredd Guttenberg – the father of 14-year-old Jaime Guttenberg, who was killed at Stoneman Douglas; Francine Wheeler – the mother of six-year-old Ben Wheeler, who was killed at Sandy Hook; Lori Haas – the mother of a survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting; Kim Bose – the mother of 20-year-old Joseph Bose, killed by gun violence in 2015; Prince George's County Police Chief Hank Stawinski; high school student and gun violence prevention activist Eva Jones; teacher Katrina Kickbush; and Democratic Sens. Stabenow, Nelson, Dick Durbin, Amy Klobuchar, Jeff Merkley, Ron Wyden, Tim Kaine, Chris Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez-Masto, and Patty Murray Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-203, Washington, DC [dpcc.senate.gov](http://dpcc.senate.gov)

HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including nominations of John Ring to be a National Labor Relations Board member; Frank Brogan to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Elementary and Secondary Education; Dr Mark Schneider to be Institute of Education Science Director; and Marco Rajkovich to be a Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission member Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

IACLEA Capitol Hill Day – International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators Capitol Hill Day, meeting Members of Congress to discuss issues of public safety at higher education institutions Location: Washington, DC [www.iaclea.org](http://www.iaclea.org)



**US House:** 10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the State Insurance Regulation Preservation Act – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'Legislative Review of H.R. 5059, the State Insurance Regulation Preservation Act', with testimony from Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company Chief Strategist and Risk Officer Michael Mahaffey; COUNTRY Financial CEO Kurt Bock (on behalf of Property Casualty Insurers Association of America); and University of Minnesota Law School Professor Daniel Schwarcz Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>  
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on retail and emerging tech – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of Emerging Tech's Impact on Retail Operations and Logistics', with testimony from Hel's Kitchen founder David Borris; Medici Ventures President Jonathan Johnson; Casestack founder, President, and CEO Dan Sanker; and Convey Logistics CEO Rob Taylor Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC  
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House / Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees hear legislative presentation from vets group – House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs joint hearing on 'Legislative Presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States', with testimony from VFW National Commander in Chief Keith Harman, National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, Washington Office Executive Director Bob Wallace, National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes, and National Legislative Committee Chairman Richard Morrison Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM CFTC Chairman Giancarlo testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Commodity Futures Trading Commission', with testimony from CFTC Chairman Chris Giancarlo Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations Committee hearing on U.S. Navy and Marine Corps budget – Defense Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Navy and Marine Corps', with testimony from Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer; U.S. Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller; and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson Location: U.S. Capitol, H-140, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Armed Services Committee hearing on defense acquisition reform – Hearing on 'Assessing Military Service Acquisition Reform', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Dr Bruce Jette; Assistant Secretary

of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition James Geurts; and Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition Dr William Roper  
Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC  
[www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

10:00 AM Social Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Lacking a Leader: Challenges Facing the SSA After Over 5 Years of Acting Commissioners' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Space subcommittee hearing on FY'19 NASA budget – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'An Overview of the NASA Budget for Fiscal Year 2019', with testimony from NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot Jr. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee hearing on long-term funding for highways and transit programs – Highways and Transit Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Long-Term Funding for Highways and Transit Programs', with testimony from Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner John Schroer (on behalf of American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials); Colorado Department of Transportation Executive Director Michael Lewis (on behalf of Western Road Use Charge Consortium); American Trucking Associations President and CEO Chris Spear; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Ed Mortimer; and Economic Policy Institute President Thea Lee Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 2152, the Citizens' Right to Know Act of 2017' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:15 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 520, National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act', 'H.R. 4731, To extend the retained use estate for the Caneel Bay resort in St. John, United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes', and 'H.R. 5133, Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization of 2018' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>  
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:15 AM Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of Transportation Fuels and Vehicles' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Budget Committee continues series of hearings on oversight of the CBO – Hearing on 'CBO Oversight: Member Day', with

testimony from Members of Congress \* Continues a series of five hearings on the CBO Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://budget.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/housebudgetgop>

10:30 AM House Homeland Security Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 4176, the Air Cargo Security Improvement Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 4227, the Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 4467, the Strengthening Aviation Security Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 4627, the Shielding Public Spaces from Vehicular Terrorism Act’, ‘H.R. 5074, the DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act’, ‘H.R. 5079, the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act’, ‘H.R. 5081, the Surface Transportation Security and Technology Accountability Act of 2018’, ‘H.R. 5089, the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2018’, ‘H.R. 5094, the Enhancing Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative Act’, ‘H.R. 5099, the Enhancing DHS’ Fusion Center Technical Assistance Program’, and ‘H.R. 5131, the Surface Transportation Security Improvement Act of 2018’ Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC [homeland.house.gov](http://homeland.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on regulatory reform – Hearing on ‘Regulatory Reform and Rollback: The Effects on Small Businesses’, with testimony from NFIB Small Business Legal Center Executive Director Karen Harned; National Association of Manufacturers Vice President for Labor, Legal & Regulatory Policy Patrick Hedren; National Association of Home Builders Chairman Randy Noel; and Georgetown Law Professor Lisa Heinzerling Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House debates BRICK Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 1917 – Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns Act of 2017’ Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Administration Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including ‘Committee Resolution 115-9: A Committee Resolution to allocate funds from the reserve fund’ Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1310, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittees joint hearing on DHS cybersecurity workforce – Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee and Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Examining DHS’ Efforts to Strengthen its Cybersecurity Workforce’ Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC [homeland.house.gov](http://homeland.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on China in Africa – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on ‘China in Africa: The New Colonialism?’, with testimony from ‘The Coming Collapse of China’ author

Gordon Chang; Heritage Foundation Senior Policy Analyst for Africa and the Middle East Joshua Meserve; Center for Global Development Senior Fellow Scott Morris; and Howard University Department of African Studies Assistant Professor Dr Anita Plummer Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>  
<https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Transportation subcommittee hearing on implementation of USCG programs – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on ‘Implementation of Coast Guard Programs’, with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Deputy Commandant for Operations, Policy, and Capabilities Rear Adm. Linda Fagan; and Government Accountability Office Acting Director of Homeland Security and Justice Nathan Anderson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/Transport>

2:00 PM Hearing on ‘The Economic Report of the President’, with testimony from Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC  
[www.jec.senate.gov](http://www.jec.senate.gov) <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program – Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee hearing on ‘The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Lightning II Program’, with testimony from F-35 Joint Program Office Program Executive Officer Vice Adm. Mathias Winter; U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation Lt. Gen. Steven Rudder; U.S. Navy Director of Air Warfare (OPNAV N98) Rear Adm. Scott Conn; and U.S. Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Programs, and Requirements Lt. Gen. Jerry Harris Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC  
[www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee latest hearing on AI – Information Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘Game Changers: Artificial Intelligence Part II, Artificial Intelligence and the Federal Government’, with testimony from Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Information Innovation Office Deputy Director Dr John Everett; General Services Administration Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Information Technology Category Acquisition Management Keith Nakasone; National Science Foundation Assistant Director of Computer Science and Information Science and Engineering Dr James Kurose; and Homeland Security Advanced Research Project Agency Cybersecurity Division Director Dr Douglas Maughan Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 3497’, ‘H.R. 4245’, a draft bill on purchase card misuse, and a draft bill on the Medical Surgical Prime Vendor program, with testimony from

Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Management Director of Corporate Travel John Adams, Office of Information and Technology Health Portfolio Director Katrina Tuisamatatele, and Electronic Health Record Modernization Program Program Executive Office Director of Program Control Fred Mingo; Veterans Health Administration Acting Deputy Chief Procurement Officer Ricky Lemmon; The American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Director Louis Celli Jr.; and National Veterans Small Business Coalition Executive Director Scott Denniston Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the current data security and breach notification regulatory regime – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on ‘Legislative Proposals to Reform the Current Data Security and Breach Notification Regulatory Regime’, with testimony from Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General Sara Cable; Consumer Data Industry Association President and CEO Francis Creighton; Information Technology Industry Council Vice President for Global Policy and Law John Miller; and Financial Services Roundtable Vice President Jason Kratovil Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>  
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on FY’19 strategic forces budget – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on ‘U.S. Strategic Forces Posture and the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request’, with testimony from U.S. Strategic Command Commander Gen. John Hyten; and Under Secretary of Defense for Policy John Rood Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC  
[www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

IACLEA Capitol Hill Day – International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators Capitol Hill Day, meeting Members of Congress to discuss issues of public safety at higher education institutions Location: Washington, DC [www.iaclea.org](http://www.iaclea.org)

**Other:** 8:00 AM Ripon Society discussion on ‘The Future of NAFTA’ – ‘The Future of NAFTA’ Ripon Society discussion, on the future of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the debate over modernizing the agreement in a way that keeps the economies of all three countries – the U.S., Canada, and Mexico – strong. Speakers include Republicans Sen. Jerry Moran and Rep. Will Hurd, Mexico Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Geronimo Gutierrez, and Canada Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. David MacNaughton Location: Capitol Hill Club, 300 1st St SE, Washington, DC  
[www.riponsociety.org](http://www.riponsociety.org) <https://twitter.com/RiponSociety>

8:15 AM Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at the Economic Club of Washington, DC Location: Washington, DC  
[www.economicclub.org](http://www.economicclub.org) <https://twitter.com/TheEconomicClub>

9:00 AM Dem Rep. Rick Larsen keynotes discussion on U.S.-China relations at Brookings – ‘The end of U.S. engagement with China?’

Brookings Institution John L. Thornton China Center event assessing prospects for U.S.-China relations, with keynote from Democratic Rep. Rick Larsen. Other speakers include National Endowment for Democracy International Forum for Democratic Studies Director Shanthi Kalathil, George Washington University Elliot School of International Affairs Professor David Shambaugh, University of California Hastings College of Law Professor and Committee of 100 Chairman Frank Wu, Ford Foundation China Director Elizabeth Kump, and National Committee on United States-China Relations President Stephen Orlins Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC

<http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #USChinaTies

9:30 AM Dem Rep. Nancy Pelosi donates items to National Museum of American History – National Museum of American History holds special donation ceremony to receive three objects from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi representing her election as the first woman House Speaker – a lacquered-maple gavel, the burgundy pantsuit she wore to her swearing-in, and the original speech she gave on the morning of 4 Jan 2007.

Attendees include House Republican Conference Chairwoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Smithsonian Regent Democratic Rep. Doris Matsui, Smithsonian Institution Secretary David Skorton, and National Museum of American History Director John Gray and curator Lisa Kathleen Graddy Location: Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, 1300 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://americanhistory.si.edu> <https://twitter.com/amhistorymuseum>

1:30 PM USDA press call on efforts to help rural communities address the opioid crisis – Secretary of Agriculture's Assistant for Rural Development Anne Hazlett discusses the role that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is playing to help address the opioid crisis, via national press call, including the announcement of a series of state-based opioid roundtables designed to share best local practices and tools rural communities are using to address opioid misuse and treatment Location: TBD [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov) <https://twitter.com/USDA>

6:30 PM DNC IWillVote Gala – Democratic National Committee IWillVote Gala, with DNC Chair Tom Perez and Democratic Sens. Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand, Doug Jones and Elizabeth Warren Location: Andrew W Mellon Auditorium, 1301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.democrats.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheDemocrats>

7:00 PM Dem Reps. Don Beyer and Ted Deutch town hall on gun and school safety – Democratic Reps. Don Beyer and Ted Deutch speak at town hall conversation on gun safety and the safety of U.S. schools, following the 14 Feb shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. Participants include students from Alexandria City Public Schools and Fred Guttenberg – the father of 14-year-old Jaime, who was killed in Parkland Location: T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard Campus, Alexandria, VA [beyer.house.gov/](http://beyer.house.gov/) <https://twitter.com/RepDonBeyer>

National Council of State Housing Agencies Legislative Conference

concludes – National Council of State Housing Agencies Legislative Conference concludes, with speakers today including Democratic Sen. Christopher Coons and 'The Cook Political Report' Editor and Publisher Charlie Cook Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC [www.ncsha.org](http://www.ncsha.org) <https://twitter.com/HomeEverything>

Vice President Mike Pence campaigns in Kentucky for Republican Rep. Andy Barr, who is running for re-election Location: TBD [andybarrforcongress.com](http://andybarrforcongress.com) <https://twitter.com/barrforcongress>

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "So two hours after [President Trump] was saying everybody wants to work at the White House, his top economic adviser Gary Cohn, resigned. He doesn't want to work at the White House. It is almost a miracle to behold. If Donald Trump says it is a sunny day, expect rain."

**Stephen Colbert:** "It's good to be alive and to stay that way, because we just found out that North Korea is willing to talk to the US about giving up their nuclear weapons. And not the usual way they talk about giving up their nuclear weapons, by dropping them on Seattle."

**James Corden:** "Trump said there's still people in the White House he'd like to replace. Yeah, we'd all like to replace someone in the White House."

**James Corden:** "On Capitol Hill, a group of House Democrats are trying to change the rules so members of Congress can't sleep in their offices overnight. Apparently, a lot of members of Congress do this to save money on rent. They sleep in their office. Is it just me or, anyone else concerned that the people running the country are living like alcoholic private detectives from the 1940s? Speaker of the House Paul Ryan defended sleeping in the office, explaining he wakes up early to work out, proving that, no matter where you work, there's always that one guy bragging he was in the gym at 5:00 a.m."

**Trevor Noah:** "Speaking of the Trump Administration, today there was yet another resignation. I know, shocking, shocking. Chief Economic Adviser Gary Cohn quit today. So I think at this point, the White House staff is just John Kelly and a fax machine Jared isn't allowed to use."

**Trevor Noah:** "If you never heard of Sam Nunberg, he was an early aide to

Donald Trump who was hired, fired, and fired again, this time for using the n-word on Facebook, which is shocking someone got fired from the Trump campaign for being racist. I thought they hired people based on that."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Now some big news out of Washington. Kellyanne Conway has been accused of violating federal ethics laws during TV appearances in 2017. If found guilty, she could be forced to leave her job, or even worse, stay."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Robert Mueller is now investigating one of President Trump's personal lawyers. You know it's bad when even your lawyer is like, 'Do you know any good lawyers?'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Lego just revealed that they've made too many bricks over the years, and have unsold stockpiles in warehouses. So I think President Trump just found a solution for his border wall."

**Seth Meyers:** "According to the National Journal, former President George W. Bush frequently jokes about the Trump Administration, saying, quote, 'Makes me look pretty good, doesn't it?' Okay, but I wouldn't be too excited that this is what it takes to make you look good."

**Seth Meyers:** "In an interview with the Washington Post, former Trump aide Sam Nunberg said that he has been subpoenaed by special counsel Robert Mueller, but is refusing to go, saying, quote, 'Let him arrest me.' And then in an interview with everybody, Nunberg said, and I quote, 'Trump may very well have done something during the election. Carter Page colluded with the Russians. Sarah Huckabee Sanders is a joke, and nobody hates Donald Trump more than me.' Wow! Apparently, he believes the first step in Trump's infrastructure plan is to burn all the bridges."

**Seth Meyers:** "New York City is bracing for a nor'easter tomorrow that could bring up to 10 inches of snow. So just a heads-up, it may disrupt subway service starting around two years ago."

**Conan O'Brien:** "Today, [President Trump] promised that his tariffs on steel and aluminum would be applied in 'a loving way.' Congratulations, President Trump. You can even make tariffs creepy."



**Conan O'Brien:** "In an interview, President Trump warned there may be more people leaving the White House soon. After hearing this, prosecutor Robert Mueller said, 'Funny, I was just about to say the same thing.'"

**Jordan Klepper:** "Ladies and gentlemen, the swamp continues to drain. Trump's lead economic adviser, Gary Cohn, resigned this evening because he disagreed with the President's decision on steel tariffs. That's two birds with one tariff. Another Trump promise kept, getting all the Goldman Sachs people out of government, even the ones he brought into the government."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-03-07T17:58:02-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: I will be in DC next week.....  
**Received:** 2018-03-07T18:56:19-05:00

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Hans Walsh <hans@bernzott.com>  
**Date:** 03/07/2018 12:59 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** 'Ryan Zinke' <[REDACTED] (b)(6)>  
**Subject:** I will be in DC next week.....

...arriving late afternoon on the 14<sup>th</sup> and departing the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> (St. Paddy's). If you will be in town and have the time I would love to link up.

Hope all is going good and that you are surviving the swamp and the associated 360 degree assaults. Stay low and don't bunch up.

Hans

Hans Walsh

Bernzott Capital Advisors

(805) 389-9445 Ext 213

Fax: (805) 389-9456

[hans@bernzott.com](mailto:hans@bernzott.com)

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-08T06:56:14-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 8, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-08T06:56:22-05:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 8, 2018 at 6:00:52 AM EST  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018 6:00 AM EST**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- The Hill: Lawmakers Propose Boosting Park Funding With Oil Money.
- The Hill: WH: Trump Still Opposed To Elephant Trophies Despite New Policy.
- McClatchy: Interior Secretary Starts Backing Off Drilling Plan Amidst GOP Resistance.
- Offshore Magazine: Zinke Introduces Offshore Safety Initiatives.
- Washington Examiner: Oil, Gas Groups Tell Trump To Back Off Tariffs.
- Politico: Climate Change Skeptics Run The Trump Administration.
- New York Times: Keeping With Tradition, Trump Awards Jobs To Campaign Workers And Allies.
- Law360: Dems Urge Electioneering Probe Of Interior Secretary.
- Arkansas Democrat Gazette: Arkansas Congressman Floats Land-Fund Overhaul.
- New York Times: In Utah, It's The Donald J. Trump Highway Vs. The 'Stormy Daniels Rampway'.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- New Documentary Highlights Mismanagement Of Native Trust Money By Feds.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Federal Court In Wyoming To Revisit Methane Rule Compliance, Following California Court Decision.
- Moab (UT) Times-Independent: BLM Gives Go Ahead To Uranium Mine Near Shash Jaa National Monument.

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Dems Ask For Longer Comment Period On Trump's Offshore Drilling Plan.

- Oceana Releases Economic Data Prior To Oil Drilling Deadline.
- Maine Critics Throw Cold Water On Trump Administration's Offshore Drilling Plan.
- San Diego Passes Resolution Against Offshore Drilling.
- If Trump Wants To Drill For Oil In San Diego Waters, He'll Have To Get Through His Navy.
- Offshore Drilling Seeing State And Local Opposition.
- Trump Off-Shore Drilling Initiative Gets Cool Response From NH Protesters.
- Feds Told Offshore Drilling Is Not An Option For Long Island.
- With Drilling Comment Period Closing Soon, Regan Visits Onslow Coast.
- Virginia Offshore Drilling Forum Brings Gov. Northam And Big Crowd.

#### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Associated Press: Cleanup To Remove Buried Drums At Wildlife Refuge Site.
- KSDK-TV St. Louis: 47,000 Asian Carp Removed From Creve Coeur Lake.

#### **National Park Service**

- Los Angeles Times: The Most Popular National Parks In 2017? This May Surprise You.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: National Park Service Completes Fort Pickens Preservation Project.
- Associated Press: 3 Bison Activists Charged In Yellowstone National Park.
- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Grand Teton Axes Body Cameras.
- The Hill: Under Contract.

#### **Insular And International Affairs**

- Chinese Firms Will Pay \$14 Million Back Wages In Saipan Case.
- EU Tax Haven Blacklist Set To Shrink Further, Causing Outcry.
- Schools For Environmental Conservation.

#### **US Geological Survey**

- Scientific American: Nominee To Lead USGS Is Hard To Read.
- Additional Reading.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- Secretary Of Interior Ryan Zinke Attacks America's Wilderness.
- Trump's Offshore Drilling Plan Is Simply A Terrible Idea.
- Deadline Nears For Public Comment On Offshore Oil Drilling.
- Utah Lawmakers Might Want To Wait Before Naming A Highway After Donald Trump.
- Additional Reading.

#### **Top National News**

- CBS: Trump To Announce Tariffs With Possible Exemptions For Mexico, Canada.
- WICD-TV Champaign (IL): Citing Trump Tariffs, US Steel Says It Will Restart Illinois Plant.
- Associated Press: GOP Lawmakers In State Of "Alarm" Over Potential Cohn Replacements.
- New York Times: Head Of Forest Services Resigns Amid Sexual Harassment Allegations.

- Washington Times: Democrats Offer Infrastructure Plan Paid For By Rolling Back Tax Cuts.
- USA Today: ADP Report: "Red Hot" Job Market Growth Exceeding Expectations.
- The Hill: Court Rejects Trump Administration's Plea To End Kids' Climate Lawsuit.

#### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "The Race-Based Mortgage Penalty."
  - "Gary Cohn Joins The Exodus."
- Washington Post.
  - "Trump Finally Say He'll Protect Elections. We'll Believe It When We See It."
  - "A Muckraking Journalist Is Murdered In Slovakia."
  - "Why the Chesapeake Bay Is The Best In The World."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Big Bank Custody Fight."
  - "Russia's Trail Of Poison."
  - "How A Trade War Escalates."

#### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

#### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

#### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

#### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Lawmakers Propose Boosting Park Funding With Oil Money.**

The Hill (3/7, Cama) reports that "a bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled a bill Wednesday to increase funding for national park infrastructure, using money from energy produced both offshore and on federal land." The National Park Restoration Act, backed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, is "meant in part to implement the Trump administration's proposal last month for a new National Park Service (NPS) infrastructure fund paid for with money from oil drilling, wind, solar and other federal energy sources." The legislation "would take half of the money that the federal government gets from energy production that is above 2018 forecasts and not dedicated for another use."

The Washington Examiner (3/7, Siegel) reports that "the fund, which would hold up to \$18 billion, would be paid for by new leases for energy development on onshore and offshore federal lands. It also would finance schools under the Bureau of Indian Education." Zinke said, "Infrastructure is an investment, not merely an expense. And every dollar we put in to rebuilding our parks will help bolster the gateway communities that rely on park visitation for economic vitality. Since the early days of my confirmation, I've been talking with members of the House and Senate about how we can use energy revenue to rebuild and revitalize our parks

and communities. This bill is the largest investment in national parks in our nation's history. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue. This is an American issue, and I think that the bipartisan body of lawmakers who put this bill forward is proof."

E&E Publishing (3/7, Hotakainen) reports that appearing with senators at a Capitol Hill news conference, "Zinke called the plan 'unprecedented in scale' and predicted that it will win backing from Democrats and Republicans alike in Congress." Zinke said, "Americans deserve to have a park system that's well-funded, that's well-operated, and the visitor experience in our parks should remain sacred. ... Our parks are red, white and blue."

Also reporting are the Billings (MT) Gazette (3/7, Chaney), the Daily Inter Lake (MT) (3/7, Reilly), the Helena (MT) Independent Record (3/7, Chaney), the Maryville (TN) Daily Times (3/8, Totten), the Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (3/7, Whetstone), the Sevierville (TN) Mountain Press (3/8, Farrell), the Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (3/7, Pace), the Durango (CO) Herald (3/7, Ramstack), the Dearborn (MI) Press and Guide (3/7, Kessler), the Wyoming Business Report (3/7), Montana Public Radio (3/7, O'BRIEN), SNEWS (3/7, Arvesen), KTVZ-TV Bend (OR) Bend, OR (3/7), WBIR-TV Knoxville (TN) Knoxville, TN (3/8), and KGVO-FM Missoula (MT) Missoula, MT (3/7, Christian).

### **WH: Trump Still Opposed To Elephant Trophies Despite New Policy.**

The Hill (3/7, Fabian, Cama) reports that President Trump "remains opposed to elephant trophy hunting despite his administration's decision to allow some trophy imports on a 'case-by-case basis,' the White House said on Wednesday." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policy was "a response to a court decision impacting how trophy import applications are reviewed." However, "conservationists say that Trump's previous statements amount to a promise to completely ban trophy imports from some countries, and that the new policy falls far short of that."

ABC News (3/7, Ebbs) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "defended the administration's reversal of the elephant trophy ban during a press conference on Capitol Hill on Wednesday morning." Zinke told reporters, "Let me make it absolutely clear: We are 100 percent aligned with the president's policy. The court itself said that we had to change our process, but the policy remains the same. We are 100 percent aligned with the president's policy."

Also reporting are AP (3/7, MILLER, BIESECKER), the New York Times (3/7, Nuwer), CBS News (3/7, Guild), the New York Post (3/7, Steinbuch), Business Insider (3/7, Berke), Newsweek (3/7, Silva), CNBC (3/7, Cerbin), Smithsonian (3/7, Katz), and Vox (3/7, Resnick).

### **Interior Secretary Starts Backing Off Drilling Plan Amidst GOP Resistance.**

The [McClatchy](#) (3/7, Dumain) reports that “facing mounting pressure from fellow Republicans who see little constituent support for drilling off the Atlantic coast, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke could be backpedaling on the Trump administration’s initial plans to expand the program,” according to GOP lawmakers. The article says that “in a meeting with affected coastal GOP representatives last week, Zinke reaffirmed an exemption from the drilling for Florida, hinted to New Jersey officials their state was likely to be spared and left a Virginia congressman optimistic the policy would be overturned for his state, too.” Also, “Zinke said he’d travel to South Carolina to get a better sense of their concerns as well.”

### **Zinke Introduces Offshore Safety Initiatives.**

[Offshore Magazine](#) (3/7) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “presented a series of six initiatives to strengthen the federal offshore oil and gas inspection program.” At the 2018 CERAWEEK conference, Zinke “highlighted a risk-based inspection element and an increase in the amount of time allotted for physical inspection of offshore facilities as two of six initiatives that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) will institute before mid-2018.” The four other initiatives include: “increasing BSEE’s engagement with industry, identifying the best available and safest technology requirements for critical offshore equipment, identifying gaps between advancing technologies and regulations, and researching the potential for third-party certification of BSEE’s inspection program by the International Standards Organization.” Zinke said, “One of the pillars to responsible energy development is ensuring it’s done safely. As part of the Trump administration’s push for safety in energy development, we are working hard to do our job smarter and ensure industry is exploring and producing safely.” BSEE Director Scott Angelle said: “The six initiatives we are announcing today are an important set of steps that will keep pace with the increased offshore oil gas and production, ensure safety, and protect the environment. They will also help BSEE become a more efficient agency, something the American taxpayers expect and deserve.”

### **Oil, Gas Groups Tell Trump To Back Off Tariffs.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/7, Siciliano, Siegel) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday defended President Trump’s tariff plan. Zinke said during an appearance at CERAWEEK, “Long-term tariffs generally disrupt free markets and raise costs, but it is also incumbent on the American steel companies themselves – they have to re-fit and rebuild, just like these guys did.” Zinke was “referring to the oil and gas industry’s moves to lower their costs after prices declined.”

### **Climate Change Skeptics Run The Trump Administration.**

[Politico](#) (3/7, Holden) reports that the President is filling high ranking positions in his Administration “with appointees who share his disbelief in

the scientific evidence for climate change – giving them an opportunity to impose their views on policies ranging from disaster planning to national security to housing standards.” A Politico review of Trump appointees’ past statements on climate science found that he “has chosen at least 20 like-minded people to serve as agency leaders and advisers,” and they are “already having an impact in abandoning former President Barack Obama’s attempt to help unite the world against the threat of rising sea levels, worsening storms and spreading droughts.” For example, “at the Interior Department, decisions about Pacific island territories threatened by rising seas are in the hands of an assistant secretary who has criticized ‘climate alarmists’ for ‘once again predicting the end of the world as we know it.’”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (3/6, Holden, Lin).

***Trump Official Said Scientists Went ‘Outside Their Wheelhouse’ By Writing Climate Change ‘Dramatically’ Shrunk Montana Glaciers.*** The [Washington Post](#) (3/7, Grandoni, Eilperin) reports that records released under the Freedom of Information Act show that Interior Department officials were critical of “a US Geological Survey study documenting how climate change has ‘dramatically reduced’ glaciers in Montana” and “questioned federal scientists’ description of the decline.” Reacting to a USGS headline which read, “The warming climate has dramatically reduced the size of 39 glaciers in Montana since 1966, some by as much as 85 percent,” Doug Domenech, assistant secretary of insular areas at Interior, wrote in a May 10 email to three other Department officials, “This is a perfect example of them going outside their wheelhouse.”

### **Keeping With Tradition, Trump Awards Jobs To Campaign Workers And Allies.**

The [New York Times](#) (3/7, Lipton, Ivory) reports that “nearly 260 or so former Trump campaign and inauguration workers...have gotten jobs reserved for political appointees in the administration, according to public records compiled by ProPublica.” In total, over “2,475 political appointees have joined the federal government since President Trump took office, including at least 187 former lobbyists and also 125 people with ties to conservative think tanks.” The Times notes that “the conservative appointees are spread across the government.” For example, “at the Interior Department, Ryan Nichols is an adviser in the Office of Water and Science, after coordinating the Heritage Foundation’s work with a group of climate change skeptics called the ‘Cooler Heads Coalition.’”

### **Dems Urge Electioneering Probe Of Interior Secretary.**

[Law360](#) (3/7, Goldberg) reports that “top Democrats on the House Committee on Natural Resources on Wednesday urged the U.S. Office of Special Counsel to investigate whether Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke used a coal mine cleanup funding announcement to campaign for a congressional candidate, potentially violating the Hatch Act.” Ranking minority member Raul Grijalva, and Donald McEachin, the ranking minority



member of the committee's oversight and investigations subcommittee, "want Special Counsel Henry Kerner to launch a probe into Zinke's Feb. 24 appearance at a volunteer firehouse." in Fredericktown, Pennsylvania.

### **Arkansas Congressman Floats Land-Fund Overhaul.**

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (3/7, Lockwood) reports that "more of the money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund should be spent on maintenance, less on property acquisition," according to Rep. Bruce Westerman. The Federal Lands Investing Partnership Act, introduced on Monday, "would overhaul the way the money, which comes from offshore oil and gas leasing, is allocated, increasing the percentage that goes to states and the amount earmarked for 'deferred maintenance, critical infrastructure, visitor services, and clean-up efforts' on federal land or water controlled by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management." Westerman said, "I don't think we need to be purchasing more land. I think we need to take care of the land and the assets we've got."

### **In Utah, It's The Donald J. Trump Highway Vs. The 'Stormy Daniels Rampway'.**

The [New York Times](#) (3/7, Turkewitz) reports, "Families visiting America's iconic national parks this summer might be surprised to find a new attraction" along the way: "the Donald J. Trump Utah National Parks Highway." State Rep. Michael Noel (R-UT) "has introduced a bill that would rename the state's most scenic route in honor of" Trump, "calling the move a show of gratitude to Mr. Trump for the president's December decision to slash the size of two contentious national monuments in the state." State Sen. Jim Dabakis (D-UT), who opposes the measure, "has said he would fight it by adding the name of" Stormy Daniels, "who is reported to have had an affair with the president." The Times quotes Dabakis as tweeting, "If it gets to the Senate. will present an amendment that the frontage road be designated as the Stormy Daniels rampway."

The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that the president of the Navajo Nation described the proposal as "insulting." Navajo President Russell Begaye "says honoring Trump would be like pouring salt on an open wound."

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **New Documentary Highlights Mismanagement Of Native Trust Money By Feds.**

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/7, Townsend) reports that "the long running lawsuit for Native people who were denied billions of dollars in trust fund money after decades of federal mismanagement is the subject of a new film." 100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice is "the story of Blackfeet tribal member, the late Eloise Cobell," who "took on the Interior department over missing funds in trust accounts that were supposed to be paid to Native landowners for oil and gas, grazing and timber lease

payments.”

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Federal Court In Wyoming To Revisit Methane Rule Compliance, Following California Court Decision.**

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/7, Richards) reports that “a Wyoming federal court will reopen the case into the Bureau of Land Management’s methane rule, a set of requirements cutting emissions from the oil and gas sector that industry and politicians have repeatedly tried to get rid of.” According to the article, “compliance on aspects of the Bureau of Land Management Methane Waste Reduction rule began in January of last year, after a failed attempt in the Wyoming courts to stay the rules implementation given a dispute over whether the federal agency was allowed to regulate natural gas emissions.” Since then, “the rule has been on and off the books.”

### **BLM Gives Go Ahead To Uranium Mine Near Shash Jaa National Monument.**

The [Moab \(UT\) Times-Independent](#) (3/7, Egelhoff) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “released a decision allowing the expansion of Daneros Mine near Shash Jaa National Monument and the former Bears Ears National Monument.” Energy Fuels Resources, Inc., which owns the mine, “says that with the price of uranium low, they have no immediate plans to develop Daneros mine — but it is important to have those permits in place so when the price of uranium goes up, miners can get right to work.” Mike Neumann, “a senior project manager for Energy Fuels, said that the BLM performed the required analyses before approving the mine expansion.”

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **Dems Ask For Longer Comment Period On Trump’s Offshore Drilling Plan.**

[The Hill](#) (3/6, Cama) reports that 22 Senate Democrats including top Energy and Natural Resources Committee member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) sent a letter Monday to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke requesting an extension to the public comment period for the Trump Administration’s proposed offshore drilling plan. Friday will mark the end of a 60-day comment period for the plan, released in January. The letter reads, “Given the large scope of the Draft Proposed Program, we believe a 60-day extension of the deadline for comments is necessary to allow for more public hearings in coastal areas and to give the public sufficient time to submit comments on offshore drilling.”

### **Oceana Releases Economic Data Prior To Oil Drilling Deadline.**

[South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (3/7, Stairs) reports that ahead of the March 9

deadline for public comments on offshore drilling, "Oceana has released a new study about the economic effects of the proposal." The report "states that oil drilling would be a "bad deal" for coastal states since the Atlantic coast, the Pacific coast and Gulf coast of Florida, which are all being considered for oil drilling, support more than 2.6 million American jobs and roughly \$180 billion in Gross Domestic Product." Diane Hoskins, campaign director at Oceana, said, "From ocean views scattered with drilling platforms, to the industrialization of our coastal communities, to the unacceptable risk of more BP Deepwater Horizon-like disasters, expanding offshore drilling to new areas threatens thriving coastal economies and booming industries like tourism, recreation and fishing that rely on oil-free beaches and healthy oceans."

Additional coverage was provided by [UPI](#) (3/7, Howard) and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/7).

### **Maine Critics Throw Cold Water On Trump Administration's Offshore Drilling Plan.**

[Central Maine](#) (3/7, Miller) reports that "fishermen, environmentalists and lawmakers from Maine's coast called on the Trump administration Wednesday to exclude the North Atlantic from a plan to potentially reopen much of the nation's coastline to oil and gas exploration." Representatives with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management were in Augusta for "an open house-style event to field questions about President Trump's controversial offshore energy proposal." According to the article, "the mere prospect of oil drilling in the Gulf of Maine or Georges Bank – and the accompanying environmental risks – was enough to draw more than 60 people to a pre-emptive event held before the bureau's open house."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (3/7), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (3/7, Miller), [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (3/7, Leary), and [WABI-TV](#) Bangor, ME (3/7, Doyen).

### **San Diego Passes Resolution Against Offshore Drilling.**

[KFMB-TV](#) San Diego (3/6, Griego) reports that on Tuesday the San Diego City Council voted 7-1 in favor of "a resolution opposing oil and gas drilling off the California coast." Several members of the council expressed concerns that offshore "drilling would harm tourism, the San Diego economy and the marine environment." The article notes that the sole "no" vote was Councilman Scott Sherman, who "said he's not a fan of resolutions 'as they end up in a circular file in a bureaucrat's desk,'" and he noted that San Diego "pays lobbyists to relay San Diego's message to Washington, D.C."

### **If Trump Wants To Drill For Oil In San Diego Waters, He'll Have To Get Through His Navy.**

The [Voice Of San Diego](#) (3/5, Rivard) reports the Trump Administration's plans to allow drilling off the San Diego coast face another obstacle: the

Department of Defense. According to Voice of San Diego, "Offshore drilling could flummox training and operations and, in turn, endanger national security." The Department of the Interior estimates that there are about a billion barrels of "technically recoverable" oil in the Oceanside-Capistrano basin, which is close to coastal San Diego County and Orange County. The Navy said it wants to "find compatible solutions, where possible, that support the development of domestic energy resources in concert with enabling military operations, testing, and training." The Marine Corps said it agreed with the Navy.

### **Offshore Drilling Seeing State And Local Opposition.**

KXRO-AM Aberdeen, WA (3/6) reports that the Federal offshore drilling proposal "is drawing vocal opposition locally and in Olympia." On Monday, Washington State opponents of offshore drilling spoke at "their own organized hearing in Olympia ahead of an event hosted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to take public comment." Attorney General Bob Ferguson told attendees he plans to sue if the offshore plan is approved. The cities of Westport and Ocean Shores have issued resolutions opposing offshore drilling.

Oregon Public Broadcasting (3/6, Wang) reports opponents of the Trump administration's offshore drilling plan, led by Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, rallied at a "People's Hearing" in Olympia, Washington on Monday. Commissioner of Public Lands Hillary Franz said, "We have collectively, all of us, worked far too long to protect those shorelines, not only for the natural resources and the environment but also for the local economies that depend on it." Franz promised that "the state would deny permits for any drilling operations that cross into state waters, which run three miles out from shore."

The North Coast (WA) News (3/6, Bruscas) reports that at the local opposition event ahead of the BOEM public hearing Monday, Ocean Shores, WA Mayor Crystal Dinger spoke out against offshore drilling. She stated, "Our beach town's economy is 100 percent dependent on tourism, recreation, and fishing, and we will do everything we can to protect our jobs and beautiful beaches from being put at risk from an oil spill. We've gone through that before, and have vowed to fight this offshore drilling plan tooth and nail."

### **Trump Off-Shore Drilling Initiative Gets Cool Response From NH Protesters.**

The New Hampshire Union Leader (3/6, Solomon) reports that on Monday New Hampshire opponents of the Federal offshore drilling plan "lined the sidewalk in front of the Concord Holiday Inn" while Federal officials hosted "an information session on the proposal" inside. During that information session, opponents also spoke to the 18 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management employees visiting Concord for a public hearing.

**Feds Told Offshore Drilling Is Not An Option For Long Island.**

The [Sag Harbor \(NY\) Express](#) (3/6, Kotz) reports that Friday during a hearing with Federal officials at Brookhaven Town Hall in New York, "dozens of elected officials, environmentalists and everyday citizens" spoke out against offshore drilling. The hearing, "chaired by Kate MacGregor, one of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's deputies," saw "several hundred very vocal opponents" turn up. Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY), an opponent of offshore drilling, arranged the hearing. The hearing lasted for six hours, the Express notes.

**With Drilling Comment Period Closing Soon, Regan Visits Onslow Coast.**

The [Jacksonville \(NC\) Daily News](#) (3/6, Wagner) reports that in comments to Onslow County, NC officials on Tuesday, Michael Regan, secretary for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality spoke against the Federal offshore drilling plan. Regan said, "A danger to our economy is more important or just as important in terms of national security than the few benefits that oil might produce." The Daily News notes that over the past few weeks, Regan has visited coastal communities across the state to spread "the message that he, Gov. Roy Cooper (R-NC) and Attorney General Josh Stein are staunchly opposed to the Trump Administration's plan to open the North Carolina coast to offshore drilling in its 2019-2024 plan."

**Virginia Offshore Drilling Forum Brings Gov. Northam And Big Crowd.**

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (3/6, Her) reports that there was an offshore drilling forum Monday at Old Dominion University to discuss how the Federal offshore drilling plan might effect Virginia. During the forum, Gov. Ralph Northam (D-VA) said, "It is important to this country as well and the east coast and that is to do everything we can to prevent offshore drilling."

**Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

**Cleanup To Remove Buried Drums At Wildlife Refuge Site.**

The [AP](#) (3/7) reports that "a cleanup effort will remove buried drums found near the construction site for the new Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge visitor center and headquarters in southeastern Michigan." Work is slated to begin "Monday and Tuesday in Trenton and is expected to be completed around mid-May." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "says the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is leading the work on the former automotive parts factory site."

**47,000 Asian Carp Removed From Creve Coeur Lake.**

[KSDK-TV St. Louis](#) (3/7) reports that "after an intensive three-week purge, 85 percent of the Asian carp in Creve Coeur Lake are gone." According to

the article, "the experimental removal project was conducted by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and St. Louis County Parks last month." In all, "biologists took out around 47,000, or about 119 tons, of the unwanted invasive fish from the lake."

### **National Park Service**

---

#### **The Most Popular National Parks In 2017? This May Surprise You.**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/7, Forgione) reports that "national parks received 330,882,751 visitors in 2017, a little less than the record-setting number in 2016, the National Park Service's centennial year." Great Smoky Mountains National Park "tops the list with more than 11 million visitors, almost twice as many as the second-most-visited park," the Grand Canyon with "a milestone 6-million-plus visitors."

#### **National Park Service Completes Fort Pickens Preservation Project.**

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (3/7, Gabriel) reports that the National Park Service has "finished a big preservation project at Fort Pickens." According to the article, "the \$269,000 project shored up some areas of the fort that were threatened by encroaching vegetation and water runoff."

#### **3 Bison Activists Charged In Yellowstone National Park.**

The [AP](#) (3/7) reports that "a judge has ordered three bison activists arrested in Yellowstone National Park to be detained until at least Monday." U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Carman "granted a federal prosecutor's request to delay court proceedings until Monday and to detain the three defendants until then." The defendants, Thomas Brown of Hardwick, Vermont; Cody J. Cyson of Minnetonka, Minnesota; and Hanna Ponder of Donnelly, Idaho, are "affiliated with an advocacy group called Wild Buffalo Defense that seeks to draw attention to the slaughter of bison."

#### **Grand Teton Axes Body Cameras.**

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (3/7, Mieure) reports that rangers at Grand Teton National Park are "no longer recording their interactions on body and dash cameras." According to the article, "after wearing them for over a decade the park's body camera program has been discontinued until officials can figure out a more 'sustainable' strategy." The park's public affairs officer, Denise Germann cited "issues of storage and the time it takes to download video each day."

#### **Under Contract.**

The [Hill](#) (3/7) reports that the National Park Service is "paying \$166,800 to 'refurbish bronze doors' at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Ohio." Milestone Management Group won the contract.

### **Insular And International Affairs**

---

**Chinese Firms Will Pay \$14 Million Back Wages In Saipan Case.**

The [AP](#) (3/5, Yan) reports that "four Chinese construction firms will pay nearly \$14 million in back wages and damages to thousands of Chinese workers for construction of a casino in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." Investigators discovered "the contractors paid employees less than what was required by law, according to a U.S. Department of Labor statement released Monday." The settlement will affect more than 2,400 employees.

**EU Tax Haven Blacklist Set To Shrink Further, Causing Outcry.**

[Reuters](#) (3/6, Guarascio) reports that "European Union states are set to remove Bahrain, the Marshall Islands and Saint Lucia from a list of tax havens next week, leaving only six jurisdictions on it, an EU document shows." The decision by the EU Code of Conduct Group "drew criticism from an anti-corruption watchdog on Tuesday." The move is "also likely to bring more disapproval from lawmakers and activists who had strongly criticized a first delisting in January that cut the number of jurisdictions named to nine from 17."

**Schools For Environmental Conservation.**

[Marianas Variety](#) (3/8) reports that "Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance hosted a coral reef conservation workshop this past weekend for teachers and students from various high schools and middle schools on island as part of their 'Schools for Environmental Conservation' or SFEC program." Activities for the "one day educational workshop" were "completely funded by MINA with support from the Coral Reef Initiative/Natural Resources Program in the Office of Insular Affairs."

**US Geological Survey**

---

**Nominee To Lead USGS Is Hard To Read.**

[Scientific American](#) (3/7, Patterson) reports that James Reilly II, the nominee to lead the U.S. Geological Survey, "sidestepped a question yesterday about whether climate change is a core mission" of the agency. Speaking with reporters after a hearing with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Reilly "said he 'couldn't address' whether the office's climate research fits into its traditional mandate." He said, "One of the things I will be looking at very closely, though, is how do the main mission areas, how do they tie in. A good understanding of the ecosystems is obviously a requirement that we have to have here as a national priority. That's going to be something we're going to obviously focus on as part of the charter of the USGS and one of the prime mission areas." Reilly also "sidestepped other questions about the agency's mission, not just those on climate, and said he would wait to be confirmed before commenting on specific issues under the banner of USGS."

Also reporting are [Eos](#) (3/7, Showstack) and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#)

Juneau, AK (3/7, Ruskin).

### **Additional Reading.**

- *First Rising Tides, Now Sinking Shores: Study Finds New Trouble For Bay Area.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/8, Alexander).
- *Climate Change Tightens Grip On US West Coast Despite Progressive Aspirations.* [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/7, Milman).
- *Sea Level Rise In The SF Bay Area Just Got A Lot More Dire.* [Wired](#) (3/7, Simon).

### **Opinion Pieces**

---

#### **Secretary Of Interior Ryan Zinke Attacks America's Wilderness.**

In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/7, Proescholdt), Kevin Proescholdt, the conservation director for Wilderness Watch, writes that "in just the first year of the Trump administration, America's wilderness, public lands and wildlife legacy have been under constant attack." In particular, Proescholdt takes issue with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "anti-wilderness actions." In Proescholdt's view, "far from being a conservationist like Teddy Roosevelt, as he likes to pretend in public, Ryan Zinke is actually more modeling President Reagan's notorious Secretary of Interior James Watt, or Warren Harding's Interior Secretary Albert Hall of the Teapot Dome scandal."

#### **Trump's Offshore Drilling Plan Is Simply A Terrible Idea.**

In an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (3/6, Safina) Carl Safina, a MacArthur Fellow who holds the endowed chairman for Nature and Humanity at Stony Brook University, notes the pending Friday deadline for public comment on the Federal offshore drilling proposal. He calls the proposal "a gift to the oil industry, a dismissal of the American public, and a retreat from addressing the challenge of climate change." He also warns of the risks involved in offshore drilling, pointing to the Deepwater Horizon spill as well as the risks of Arctic Ocean drilling.

#### **Deadline Nears For Public Comment On Offshore Oil Drilling.**

In an op-ed in the [Cape \(DE\) Gazette](#) (3/6, Flood) former newspaper editor Don Flood calls the proposed offshore drilling plan "bad news," but says that there is "good news," because "the federal government is seeking comments from the public before it begins selling leases for offshore drilling." Still, Flood concludes that "for long-term protection of our precious coastline, we need to kick politicians like Trump out of office."

#### **Utah Lawmakers Might Want To Wait Before Naming A Highway After Donald Trump.**

The [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (3/7) editorializes that Rep. Mike Noel



has “sponsored a bill to change the name of the Utah National Parks Highway to the Donald J. Trump Utah National Parks Highway — just his little way of thanking the president for slashing nearly 2 million acres from the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, opening them for oil, gas, coal and uranium development.” But the paper cautions Noel and Republican lawmakers “to see how Stormy Daniels’ lawsuit turns out before they decide to name a highway after the 45th president.”


### **Additional Reading.**

- *Congress Must Act To Protect Forests From Worsening Fires.* The Hill (3/7, Imbergamo, O'Mara).
- *Loan To Jared Kushner Raises Questions About California Water Project.* Los Angeles Times (3/7, Hiltzik).
- *Westlands Water-U.S. Drainage Settlement Is Fair And Equitable.* San Francisco Chronicle (3/7, Amaral).
- *Future Of Our Coast Is In Your Hands.* Sumter (SC) The Item (3/7, Howell).
- *Opinion: As Comment Period Ends, Drilling Still Makes No Sense.* Outer Banks (NC) Voice (3/7, Walker).
- *Commentary: No Listening At Hearing On Offshore Drilling Plan.* Tideland News (NC) (3/7, Tursi).
- *OPINION SHAPER: Cons Outweigh The Pros Of Offshore Drilling.* Berkeley (SC) Independent (3/7, Bragg).
- *US Changes Its Mind On Trophy Hunting Again.* Johannesburg Times (ZAF) (3/8, Cruise).
- *The Interior Department Is Putting The Fossil Fuel Industry First And Americans Last.* Washington Monthly (3/7, Clement).

### **Top National News**

---

#### **Trump To Announce Tariffs With Possible Exemptions For Mexico, Canada.**

President Trump’s plans to levy tariffs on steel and aluminum imports continued to generate extensive – and mainly unfavorable – media coverage, which highlights the concerns of GOP lawmakers and business leaders. The coverage also highlights that the President may have budged in his initial opposition to exempt certain countries from the tariffs. The  CBS Evening News (3/7, story 7, 1:25, Glor) reported that “congressional Republicans are making a lasting-ditch attempt to change Trump’s mind,” and “it appears the White House is listening, because today for the first time...they said that countries like Mexico and Canada, US allies essentially, might be exempt.” The AP (3/7, Thomas) says the move “could soften the blow amid threats of retaliation by trading partners and dire economic warnings from lawmakers and business groups.” Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters the exemptions “would be made on

a 'case by case' and 'country by country' basis."

The Washington Post (3/7, Lynch, Paletta) indicates, meanwhile, that "the announcement came after Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson made a last-minute appeal for flexibility, saying that overly broad tariffs could damage relationships with US allies." Breitbart (3/7, Carney) cites a "source" that "said that NAFTA trade negotiators think imposing the sanctions while the negotiations are ongoing would be 'unhelpful,'" but "if the NAFTA negotiations fail, the exemption from the tariffs would be lifted." This "is seen as giving Mexico and Canada greater incentives to cooperate with US demands."

Bloomberg News (3/7, Talev, Olorunnipa) notes that earlier Wednesday, Commerce Secretary Ross had also "signaled that the administration is open to exempting countries besides Mexico and Canada, though he didn't mention national security as a criteria that would be used." Said Ross, "The president indicated that if we can work something out with Canada and Mexico, they will be exempted. It's not inconceivable that others could be exempted on a similar basis." The New York Times (3/7, Swanson) also points out Trump "and other administration officials have also indicated that Canada, Mexico or other close allies could be exempted through renegotiated trade deals or other measures."

The New York Times (3/7, Swanson) reports the tariffs "would not go into effect immediately, however, with a two-week implementation period required under the statute that gives the president authority to impose the measures." That "could give countries or companies a chance to submit input and try to sway the administration's plan, according to the people familiar with the deliberations."

Bloomberg News (3/7, Mohsin) reports that in a phone interview, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "said he recognizes the risk of retaliation against the US...but still believes the move will benefit American workers." Said Mnuchin, "If you want to negotiate things that are good for us, you have to be prepared for the consequences. ... Our objective is not to create a trade war. Our objective is to make sure US companies and workers are treated fairly." The Hill (3/7, Fabian), meanwhile, notes Ross also "said on Wednesday that the Trump administration was not looking to start a trade war," telling CNBC, "We're not trying to blow up the world. ... We want to balance our needs to fix the trade deficit with the needs of the economy, and the needs of the global economy itself."

The New York Times (3/7, Swanson), citing "people familiar with the deliberations," says the President "is expected to formally sign off on" the "stiff tariffs...at noon on Thursday," while Bloomberg News (3/7, Mayeda, Mohsin) cites a "White House official" who says the orders will be signed "at 3:30 p.m." and the Washington Examiner (3/7, Higgns) notes Ross told  Fox Business, "I don't want to get ahead of the president, but I believe that we will live up to his promise that it will be this week, not including Saturday."

Mnuchin, asked on  Bloomberg TV (3/7) if the announcement could

come this week, said, "That is the plan, yes. ... It could be as early as tomorrow. It could be Friday. We are working to get the finishing documents on this." Reuters (3/7, Holland), meanwhile, notes "a White House official said Trump hoped to sign the presidential proclamation on Thursday afternoon but it could slide to Friday so that documents could be cleared through a legal process." The Wall Street Journal (3/7, Bender, Timiraos) similarly reports Trump aims to finalize the tariffs this week, and the Washington Times (3/7, Miller) that he "is scheduled to hold a campaign rally Saturday in southwest Pennsylvania, deep in steel country," though he is "not expected to sign the order at the rally."

USA Today (3/7, Jackson) reports that "late Wednesday, the White House was pulling together details of a formal ceremony as aides suggested some countries might be exempted from the tariffs, including Mexico and Canada." However, "adding to the confusion, Wednesday night when the White House released its schedule for Thursday, no signing ceremony was listed." Ed Henry said on Fox News @ Night (3/7) the "event now looks like it is not on the schedule...because the lawyers at the White House we were told, are literally still trying to put all of the details together."

***Tariff Opponents Disappointed Pence Maintained "Studiously Neutral Position."*** Politico (3/7, Nussbaum, Johnson) reports that Vice President Pence "has been among the legions of top administration officials pushing...Trump to back off the sweeping protectionist plan he put forward during a March 1 meeting with industry executives." According to "more than a half-dozen White House and Capitol Hill aides," Pence "has been quietly delivering messages to the president from Republicans on the Hill, who have publicly opposed the tariffs plan set to be announced as early as Thursday – though he's made sure to maintain a studiously neutral position, to the frustration of some who had hoped he would do more to exert influence over Trump." USA Today adds that "a political adviser to one right-leaning outside group called his lack of engagement on tariffs a 'big time' disappointment, and said the feeling was shared among free-market Republicans."

***Freedom Caucus Joins Chorus Of Those Wanting Trump To Reconsider Tariffs.*** The Washington Post (3/7, Costa, Dawsey) reports "a growing group of Republican lawmakers are making a last-ditch effort to convince...Trump to reverse course or at-- least temper his positions – on economic tariffs, according to people familiar with the conversations." The Post adds that "in recent days, the House Freedom Caucus...has been privately urging Trump to back off his proposed tariffs," with Rep. Mark Meadows, the group's chairman and "one of Trump's most trusted allies in Congress," speaking "with the president multiple times" and relaying "the group's staunch opposition to" his plans. Yesterday, Caucus members and other GOP lawmakers "were trying to organize a meeting with Trump later this week to go over their concerns," but a "senior White House official" said "that meeting is unlikely to happen."

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (3/7) that Trump is "going after the bad actors, the people who cheat on steel and aluminum and cost us American jobs. We are all with him on that. The problem is the approach also captures the good actors. In fact, countries that buy a ton of American made steel aluminum and a lot of other things that America makes. Where we are at and a lot of Republican in the House is Mr. President, go after the bad actors. We are with you. Protect the good ones because that protects our jobs. So we are going to keep having that discussion with him."

**Cruz: Tariffs "A Mistake."** Sen. Ted Cruz said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (3/7), "I think the tariffs on steel and aluminum are a mistake. I think there are a lot more jobs in this country that are dependent on steel and aluminum as inputs and we are going to end up costing more jobs because of the tariffs than will be saved. And that doesn't even factor into account the retaliatory tariffs that we may see Europe and China or other trading partners do which could hurt farmers, manufacturers."

**EU Signals It Could Retaliate Against US Cranberries, Orange Juice, Peanut Butter.** The [Washington Post](#) (3/7, Birnbaum, Ariès) reports the EU's "top trade official mentioned cranberries, orange juice and peanut butter as possible targets on Wednesday as the bloc prepares to strike back if President Trump follows through with tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum." EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström also, "took aim at Trump's assertion that US national security justified plans to slap tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum," arguing that "the US measures 'would mainly impact traditional allies of the United States.'" The [New York Times](#) (3/7, Schreuer) says "the overall size of the business affected is relatively small, worth about 2.8 billion euros, or \$3.5 billion, in imports, paling in comparison with the nearly €250 billion of goods the 28-nation bloc bought from the United States in 2016."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/7) says EU retaliation will predominantly hit GOP-led states, and expresses fear that Trump will respond by upping the ante even more. The Journal concludes by urging the President to negotiate with the EU, and seek a broad trade agreement with the bloc.

In an analysis piece, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/7, Ip) says Trump's move threatens to alienate key allies whose support may be essential to US moves to curb predatory Chinese trade behavior.

Sen. Chris Murphy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (3/7), "Tariffs can be a really important tool to try to make sure that other countries know that they can't manipulate our economy. Let's be honest, that's what China has been doing. They have been dumping steel below the cost of raw material and that hurts our own industry. But when you announce tariffs without talking to our allies about it, allies that aren't dumping that product in the United States, you set off a series of consequences that are both economic and strategic. And that's what I worry about with respect to this announcement. You have a potential fissure between the US and Europe

that comes at the worst time. That's what the Russians are rooting for a breakup of the transatlantic alliance."

***WPost Analysis Ties Trump's Trade Stance To Childhood "Resentment That Others Didn't Respect Him."*** In an analysis piece, the Washington Post (3/7, Fisher) reports that Trump "has always looked askance at people whose decisions derive from ideology," but "there's one issue on which the president has been rock-solid consistent for four decades: his fiery demands that the United States punish countries that take advantage of American workers." The Post goes on to say that "the issue spoke to him personally: Driven since childhood by his resentment that others didn't respect him or take him seriously, he believed his country was similarly being taken advantage of."

***Samuelson: Tariffs About Trump's Ego.*** Under the headline "Trump's Tariffs Are A Triumph Of Pride Over Policy," Robert J. Samuelson, meanwhile, writes in the Washington Post (3/7) that "the controversy...is less about economics than ego - Trump's ego." Samuelson adds that "frustrated by special counsel Robert S. Mueller's III investigation and the reported chaos in the White House, the president, it seems, had to show who's boss and who's driving events. Hence, his broadside attack against many traditional US allies, including Canada, Japan and Mexico."

***Koch Criticizes Tariffs.*** Charles Koch, chairman of the board and chief executive of Koch Industries, lauds the state of the US economy in the Washington Post (3/7) and argues "history is filled with examples of administrations that have implemented trade restrictions with devastating results." Tariffs "will not add thousands of American jobs. Instead, the research shows that, while they preserve some jobs that would otherwise disappear, they reduce many other higher productivity jobs. The net effect will be not more jobs, but lower overall productivity."

***Breitbart: Harley-Davidson Criticizes Proposed Tariffs, Lays Off Workers.*** Breitbart (3/7, Binder) reports, citing the New York Post, that Harley-Davidson "released a statement" this week on President Trump's proposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, "saying the motorcycle would be hit, as far as sales, if the tariffs were enacted." Breitbart adds that "at the same time, Harley-Davidson has been most recently laying off American manufacturing workers."

### **Citing Trump Tariffs, US Steel Says It Will Restart Illinois Plant.**

US Steel's announcement that it will restart a plant in Granite City, IL generated extensive regional coverage, including local TV and print reports. The coverage universally noted that the company credited President Trump's trade policies for enabling it to reopen production in Granite City.  WICD-TV Champaign, IL (3/7, 6:07 p.m. CST) reported "company officials say the expect demand to rise after...Trump announced a 25 percent tariff on steel imports,"  WGEM-TV Quincy, IL (3/7, 6:07 p.m. CST) that the move comes "after...Trump announced a 25 percent tariff on steel imports," and  WGN-TV Chicago (3/7, 5:27 p.m. CST) that

"Trump's promise to create new tariffs on steel and aluminum" is "good news for Granite City, IL." [KHQA-TV Quincy, IL](#) (3/7, 5:06 p.m. CST), meanwhile, referred to "big economic news," and also reported "the company is anticipating increased demand based on...Trump's promise to announce new tariffs on imported steel and aluminum."

The [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (3/7, Bustos, Johnson, Landis) reports the "steel mill got the final boost it needed to rehire laid-off workers after President Donald Trump called for tariffs on imported steel." Said Dan Simmons, president of the United Steelworkers Local 1889, "It was just the icing on the cake. ... It was a shot in the arm that was badly needed and long overdue," and "the word around here is ecstatic." US Steel President and CEO David B. Burritt also "lauded the president's actions, saying the Granite City region has 'suffered too long from the unending waves of unfairly traded steel products that have flooded US markets.'"

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/7, Feldt, Barker) quotes Simmons as saying of idled workers, "Immediately, I've seen some of the biggest smiles on their faces. ... It's just so much relief for them and their families." The Post-Dispatch also quotes Burritt, "The President's strong leadership is needed to begin to level the playing field so companies like ours can compete, win and create jobs that support our employees and the communities in which we operate as well as strengthen our national and economic security." [USA Today](#) (3/7, Madhani) notes Burritt's statement in a brief report, as does [Politico](#) (3/7, Behsudi).


The [AP](#) (3/7) reports the company "said Wednesday that it anticipates calling about 500 Granite City Works employees back to work in March," and that "the change comes due to anticipated demand for more US steel in response to Trump's tariff announcement last week." The AP adds "about 2,000 workers were laid off when US Steel idled the St. Louis-area plant in late 2015."

The [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (3/7, Pete) reports "US Steel said it will need the additional steelmaking capacity to meet an expected increase in demand for its steel." The American Iron and Steel Institute "estimates that about 26 percent of the steel consumed in the United States this year was made abroad, but tariffs would make the imports 25 percent more expensive."

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (3/7, Myers) says the move also "could increase demand for taconite iron ore from the company's Minnesota mines." US Steel's "Keetac operation in Keewatin had previously been supplying Granite City, and Keetac shut down in May 2015 as the steel furnaces slowed production." Keetac "reopened in early 2017, even with Granite City furnaces still idled, with the company saying it was selling the extra taconite pellets to foreign buyers."

CNN Money emerging markets editor John Defterios said on [CNN International](#) (3/7), "I thought it was fascinating to see so quickly" US Steel added "500 jobs immediately because of the tariffs action. We saw an

aluminum producer out of the state of Kentucky doing the same. We have to take a step back here. Nobody can really criticize the Trump Administration with the methodology that's being used here to apply tariffs. ... I think what disrupted everybody else was the fact that it was shouted from the rooftops and he said we could win the trade war. It also brings into question the strategy of the Republican Party going forward. ... As you know they are ardent free traders."

***Zekelman CEO Offers Bonus To All Employees, Expects To Pick Up Production.*** The  CBS Evening News (3/7, story 8, 2:30, Glor) said Trump "did narrowly win the battleground state of Pennsylvania in 2016, partly on his promise to revive the steel industry," and went on to report from "steel country to get tariff plan reaction." CBS (Miller) added, "Wheatland, PA is home to one of the largest steel pipe makers in North America," Zekelman Industries. Barry Zekelman, CEO of Zekelman Industries, "told us he expects to add hundreds of jobs in Wheatland alone and pick up production if Trump's 25 percent tariff on foreign steel becomes reality." Zekelman is "so fired up about the President's trade plan, he's pledged to give \$1,000 to each of his 2,000 employees every year the tariff stands."

### **GOP Lawmakers In State Of "Alarm" Over Potential Cohn Replacements.**

Media reports indicate that concerns about President Trump's trade policies have become more acute after the news broke yesterday that economic adviser Gary Cohn would be leaving his White House post, setting off, as the AP (3/7, Thomas) puts it, "anxiety among business leaders," GOP lawmakers "and investors worried about a potential trade war."

Politico (3/7, Everett, Bade) similarly says "GOP alarm is reaching new heights with...Cohn's departure from the White House," and the New York Times (3/7, Swanson, Tankersley) that with Cohn out of the picture "few of" Trump's "top economic policy aides share the traditional Republican views" on trade. The news, says USA Today (3/7, Shell, Jansen), "has rattled financial markets and raised questions among nervous CEOs about whether his replacement will be an advocate of free trade or favor more populist and nationalist economic policies."

USA Today (3/7, Shell, Jansen) lists several candidates to replace Cohn: Peter Navarro, "an opponent of the trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which Trump withdrew from," as well as "a vocal critic of China and trade deficits" who "backs Trump on the steel and aluminum tariffs." Larry Kudlow, "a senior contributor on economics for CNBC and a former official in the Reagan Administration," has "criticized Trump's tariff proposal and supported the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, which Trump has criticized." Shahira Knight "was Cohn's deputy at the National Economic Council, as deputy assistant to the president for economic policy." Kevin Warsh, meanwhile, "was a member of the board of governors for the Federal Reserve from 2006 to 2011" who "earlier worked for the National Economic Council as a special assistant to

the president. Previously, he worked in the mergers and acquisitions department at Morgan Stanley & Co., becoming vice president and executive director."

Another [USA Today](#) (3/7, Jackson) story says that "at the White House these days, the 'nationalists' are winning. At least for now," because Kudlow has criticized the tariffs. In its report on potential Cohn replacements, [Bloomberg News](#) (3/7, Jacobs, Cirilli) also mentions Goldman Sachs Group Inc. executive Jim Donovan, Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett, Mick Mulvaney, head of the White House Office of Management and Budget; Chris Liddell, assistant to the president for strategic initiatives; economist Stephen Moore; Vice President Mike Pence's chief economist Mark Calabria; and Bob Steel, former under-secretary for domestic finance at Treasury under President George W. Bush.

A [Reuters](#) (3/7, Chance, Rampton) analysis, meanwhile, describes Navarro as "an economist who believes that Chinese goods are literally poisoning Americans, advocates ending Washington's 'One China' policy and says trade deals have weakened the United States economically with the connivance of US business." Navarro, "sidelined under Cohn," has "emerged as the big winner from renewed turmoil in the White House." While he says "he is not in the running to replace...Cohn," he "will be a big winner from the departure of a person seen as a bulwark against economic protectionism."

☒ [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/7, story 3, 2:05, Welker) said "Cohn is the latest member of the President's inner circle to head for the door. In all, 43 percent left Trump's White House, a higher turnover than Trump's four most predecessors each had in their first two years." [Politico](#) (3/7, Everett, Bade) reports GOP lawmakers have found Cohn to be "one of Hill Republicans' most accessible conduits to the White House," working "closely with them on tax reform, banking deregulation and, most critically, pushing back against new tariffs – an argument that Cohn clearly lost." RSC Chairman Mark Walker, among other GOP lawmakers, said, "We need an advocate in 'the circle,' because it seems like the people who are influencing Trump right now are more pro-tariff, like Peter Navarro," Rep. Peter King, meanwhile, "tried to list a few potential replacements for Cohn but seemed to be unsatisfied with his own answers other than Larry Kudlow." Said King, "I would have said [Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared] Kushner, but I don't know. ... Mnuchin? He seems to be going out of his way to talk about NAFTA, how they could change the tariffs for Canada and Mexico. He might be more sympathetic. I don't know. I'm trying to think. Mick Mulvaney?"

The [New York Times](#) (3/7, Swanson, Tankersley) says "Cohn's departure comes amid the ascendance of advisers who have urged the president to take tougher action on trade" Peter Navarro, "a trade skeptic who had been sidelined by Mr. Cohn, has been promised a promotion and made the rounds on Sunday talk shows to promote Mr. Trump's trade



policy," while "Ross, who oversaw an investigation that led to the tariffs, succeeded in moving up the announcement even as Mr. Cohn sought to delay it." Lighthizer has also "become a trusted adviser to the president."

The Hill (3/7, Needham) quotes Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn also weighing in, "I'm concerned who the president will turn to for advice. ... I think Mr. Cohn was an outstanding public servant and somebody who had the credentials and experience to help the president decide what the policies of the government should be." Sarah Sanders, later yesterday, "said that Cornyn shouldn't be concerned about Cohn's departure." Said Sanders, "The president's got a number of very accomplished, smart, capable people around him and he is going to continue to lean on a lot of those people." The Wall Street Journal (3/7, Peterson, Hughes) notes similar statements praising Cohn from GOP lawmakers including Sens. Jeff Flake and Rob Portman.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady said on  Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/7) that Cohn "was invaluable in tax reform. He was at the table trying to find a way forward." Asked who he would recommend to replace Cohn, Brady said, "I looked at a long list that came out today. There is some good names on there. People I have worked with before like Larry Kudlow, Mick Mulvaney, others. I think the President is going to have a really good list to choose from. It's a very important position. ... The President, he will make a good choice."

***Stephens: Cohn's Departure "Demolishes" Theories "Cherished" By Trump "Apologists."*** Bret Stephens writes in the New York Times (3/7) that "like a lot of guys, I've watched 'The Shawshank Redemption' more times than I can count," and "when I heard the news that...Cohn had resigned...I thought of Red's (Morgan Freeman's) somber line: 'Every man has his breaking point.'" Whether Cohn "quit out of horror of the president's protectionist turn, or merely out of the pique of losing a policy argument, is an open question," but "whatever the case, Cohn couldn't take it," and "his departure demolishes three theories, cherished by administration apologists, as to why the Trump presidency will be a success (or at the least not a disaster) despite the temperament of the man at the top." These three theories, now in doubt, are: "Theory No. 1: The grown-ups are in charge. ... Theory No. 2: Trump doesn't believe his own crazy rhetoric. ... Theory No. 3: Serious Republicans will contain Trump's follies."

### **Head Of Forest Services Resigns Amid Sexual Harassment Allegations.**

The New York Times (3/7, Baumgaertner) reports that Tony Tooke, head of the US Forest Service, has resigned "amid an investigation into sexual harassment accusations against him, a spokesman for the Agriculture Department said." Tooke's resignation comes in the wake of "PBS NewsHour" report which said that "the Agriculture Department was investigating sexual misconduct complaints against him, including that Mr. Tooke had relationships with subordinates before his appointment to the

top role.”

### **Democrats Offer Infrastructure Plan Paid For By Rolling Back Tax Cuts.**

The Washington Times (3/7, Sherfinski) reports that Senate Democrats on Wednesday offered a “\$1 trillion infrastructure plan that aims to address the nation’s crumbling roads and bridges, saying it should be paid for by rolling back several key features of the GOP’s \$1.5 trillion tax-cut law.” While Democrats say the President’s infrastructure proposal “isn’t nearly enough to seriously address the country’s needs,” the Times points out that “any plan involving changes to the tax law as a pay-for is likely to be a nonstarter with the GOP.”

#### ***Budd Makes Case Against Funding For New York-New Jersey Rail Tunnel.***

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/7), Rep. Ted Budd of North Carolina, argues against federal funding for the Gateway Program which would construct a rail upgrade between new York City and New Jersey.

### **ADP Report: “Red Hot” Job Market Growth Exceeding Expectations.**

USA Today (3/7, Davidson) reports “businesses added 235,000 jobs in February, payroll processor ADP said Wednesday, more than the 200,000 gains economists had expected.” That “could possibly signal that a key employment report from the government will reveal more signs of strong hiring later this week.” Mark Zandi, “chief economist of Moody’s Analytics, which helps ADP compile the report,” said yesterday, “The job market is red hot and threatens to overheat. ... With government spending increases and tax cuts, growth is set to accelerate.” Bloomberg News (3/7, Dmitrieva) sees the data as “underscoring continued strengthening in the labor market,” and the AP (3/7, Rugaber) and the AP says that “with unemployment already so low, strong hiring should force employers to offer much higher pay to find the workers they need.”

US News & World Report (3/7, Sorgel) reported “February represents the third consecutive month that job gains totaled at least 230,000, based on ADP’s statistics.” It is also “the fourth straight month that employment gains hit at least 200,000 – a feat that hadn’t been seen since the tail end of 2014.” CNBC (3/7, Cox), the Wall Street Journal (3/7, Hufford), and Breitbart (3/7, Carney), among other news outlets, run similar stories on the jobs date, while HousingWire (3/7, Ramirez) cautions that “because ADP often revises its numbers significantly, its reported job growth should be taken as a general direction of the market, but not a specific forecast of the number of jobs added on any given month.”

***Fed Sees Wages Rising.*** Bloomberg News (3/7, Condon) reports the Fed’s Beige Book found “a tight US labor market was helping lift wages across most of the country through late February and contributing to ‘moderate inflation’ in most areas.” Reuters (3/7) reports the Fed also said that “overall, US economic activity expanded at a ‘modest to moderate’ pace in January and February and price gains were moderate.” The Wall

Street Journal (3/7, Nunn, Chaney) also notes the Beige Book's findings.

### **Court Rejects Trump Administration's Plea To End Kids' Climate Lawsuit.**

The Hill (3/7, Cama) reports the Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit yesterday "rejected the Trump administration's attempt to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a group of kids who want to force the government to do more to fight climate change." The court "ruled that it would be premature to dismiss the case based on how burdensome the Trump administration believes the process of searching for documents and questioning people will be, a process called discovery." In their decision the three-judge panel wrote, "The defendants' argument fails because the district court has not issued a single discovery order, nor have the plaintiffs filed a single motion seeking to compel discovery. Rather, the parties have employed the usual meet-and-confer process of resolving discovery disputes."

Reuters (3/7, Stempel) reports the court "said the administration had not met the 'high bar' under federal law to dismiss the Oregon lawsuit, which was originally brought in 2015 against the administration of President Barack Obama." The possibly "far-reaching case is one of a handful seeking to have courts address global warming and its causes."

The Washington Post (3/7, Mooney) reports lead attorney and Our Children's Trust chief counsel Julia Olson said, "We're looking forward to putting the federal government on trial on climate science and its dangerous fossil fuel policies." The Department of Justice didn't "immediately respond to a request for comment on the court's ruling." The Washington Examiner (3/7, Siegel) reports Our Children's Trust "claims the government, by propping up fossil fuels, has failed to address climate change on behalf of future generations, endangering their health and prosperity." The Examiner adds that "both the Trump and Obama administration argued the case threatens the separation of powers, contending that courts cannot rule on broad and speculative issues such as the impact of government policy on climate change." Bloomberg News (3/7, Mehrotra) also provides coverage of this story.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

#### **New York Times.**

**"The Race-Based Mortgage Penalty."** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/7) laments the finding in a new study by the Center for Investigative Reporting that African-Americans and Latinos "were far more likely to be denied conventional mortgages than whites." The Times argues that these practices have perpetuated discrimination by not allowing lower income blacks and minorities to escape poverty, for which banks then punish them by not extending loans, and that "a destructive bill pending in the Senate would deepen this problem by exempting 85 percent of banks from reporting mortgage data that allows regulators and fair housing groups to ensure that home loans are being issued in a nondiscriminatory

way." The Times also asserts that "a bill pending in the Senate would open the door for the mortgage industry to use an alternative credit-scoring system, which would be one step in the right direction."

**"Gary Cohn Joins The Exodus."** The New York Times (3/6) editorializes that "[i]n an administration filled with people with dubious ideas, limited experience and loads of ethical baggage," Cohn "was supposed to be among the sensible adults in the room. Now, he is leaving after failing repeatedly to be the stabilizing influence that the Trump administration sorely needed."

### **Washington Post.**

**"Trump Finally Say He'll Protect Elections. We'll Believe It When We See It."** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/7) expresses skepticism that President Trump will make good on his vow this week "to 'counteract'" any foreign meddling in US elections. The Post says Trump's "words are meaningless unless backed by actions, which, by many accounts, are still lacking."

**"A Muckraking Journalist Is Murdered In Slovakia."** The Washington Post (3/7) writes in an editorial about Slovakia's "combative" Prime Minister Robert Fico, who "has a track record of belittling rivals and critics" and who appears to be behind the murder last month of journalist Jan Kuciak, who "had been investigating ties between the Italian mafia and top officials" in Fico's government. The article describes the "outraged" reaction by Slovaks to the murder and the increasing challenges Fico is creating for himself as he calls for investigations of businessmen and state officials, including the country's president.

**"Why the Chesapeake Bay Is The Best In The World."** The Washington Post (3/7) editorializes about the "rebounding" of the Chesapeake Bay thanks to federal government conservation efforts over the last decade. The Post asserts that "sustained federal commitment is essential" to dealing with continued challenges in the Bay, including "significant oxygen-depleted dead zones, excessive nitrogen runoff, and other problems," as well as "farm pollution from fertilizer and manure." Although President Trump "has repeatedly insisted that he wants 'crystal clear water,'" he also "zeroed out the program in his budget," but, write the editors: "thankfully, Congress appears poised to maintain funding."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**"Big Bank Custody Fight."** The Wall Street Journal (3/7) editorializes that certain provisions in the Senate's bill to relax Dodd-Frank banking regulations may will make the financial system more vulnerable during a panic. The bill encourages banks to acquire municipal debt, which has historically been illiquid when investors panic. Moreover, the regulations would make banks and government more co-dependent by making it cheaper for states and cities to borrow. Finally, the bill proposes to alter the leverage ratio for custodial banks, but not in such a way that would

safely encourage the risk-taking the economy needs.

***“Russia’s Trail Of Poison.”*** A [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/7) editorial says Russia is a natural suspect in the poisoning attack on former Russian intelligence officer Sergei Skripa and his daughter, and serves as further evidence of Moscow’s brutal nature.

***“How A Trade War Escalates.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/7) says EU retaliation for President Trump’s steel and aluminum will predominantly hit GOP-led states, and expresses fear that Trump will respond by upping the ante even more. The Journal concludes by urging the President to negotiate with the EU, and seek a broad trade agreement with the bloc.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[GOP Lawmakers Sign Letter Objecting To New Tariffs](#)

[Iran’s Oil Boom Is A No-show](#)

[Ex-Russian Spy Poisoned By Nerve Agent, UK Police Say](#)

[The Secretive Company That Pours America’s Coffee](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[Trump’s Hard Line On Trade Goes Back Decades](#)

[Trump To Offer Tariffs Break](#)

[Fla. Lawmakers Pass Gun-Control Bill](#)

[Mueller Probing Seychelles Meeting](#)

[In The Ozarks, A Town Offers ‘Hispanics 101’ Course](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[Economy And Defence Top Agenda For Saudi Crown Prince’s UK Visit](#)

[European Stocks Send Early Warning Signal On Growth](#)

[Temasek And GIC In Talks To Buy Chunk Of Salt Bae Steakhouse](#)

[Coca-Cola To Launch Alcoholic Drink In Japan](#)

#### ***Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:***

**ABC:** Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Travel; Weather Forecast; WH-Staff Turmoil; Trump-Porn Star; Alabama School Shooting; Florida School Shooting Aftermath; UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoned; Bomb Scare; Missouri Police Shooting; Chicago Traffic Accident; NBA Player-Florida School Visit.

**CBS:** Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Flooding; Weather Forecast; Trump-Porn Star; DOJ-Sanctuary Cities; Alabama School Shooting; WH-Tariff Policy; Tariff Policy-Public Reaction; UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoned; Florida School Shooting Aftermath; NBA Player-Florida School Visit; Amazon Alexa-Creepy Laugh; Football Players Charity.

**NBC:** Severe Weather; Trump-Porn Star; WH-Staff Turmoil; VA Hospital Controversy; Missouri Police Shooting; DOJ-Sanctuary Cities; Denver-

Construction Fire; UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoned; Lottery Winner; NBA Player-Florida School Visit; Amazon Alexa-Creepy Laugh; Veteran-Paralympics.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Severe Weather – 13 minutes, 35 seconds

Trump-Porn Star – 8 minutes, 25 seconds

UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoned – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Alabama School Shooting; Florida School Shooting Aftermath; WH-Tariff Policy; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

**CBS:** Severe Weather; Florida School Shooting Aftermath; Alabama School Shooting; WH-Tariff Policy; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Florida School Shooting Aftermath; Alabama School Shooting; Rep Reelection Reconsideration; NBA Sex Abuse Investigation.

**NPR:** DOJ-Sanctuary Cities; Climate Change Lawsuit; WH-Security Clearance; Wall Street News.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Holds a Cabinet meeting; hosts a roundtable with members of Congress and video game industry leaders.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

**US Senate:** 9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on EUCOM – Hearing on 'United States European Command', with testimony from U.S. European Command Commander / NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Maryland and Oregon governors testify to Senate HELP Committee hearing on the opioid crisis – Hearing on 'The Opioid Crisis: Leadership and Innovation in the States', with testimony from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan; and Oregon Governor Kate Brown Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee legislative hearing – Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'S. 2421, the Fair Agricultural Reporting Method Act', with testimony from Mortenson Ranch owner and operator Todd Mortenson; Delmarva Poultry Industry Executive Director Bill Satterfield; and Floyd County, IA, Supervisor Mark Kuhn Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Business Meeting, to consider pending legislation Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC [www.energy.senate.gov](http://www.energy.senate.gov)

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:15 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on domestic violence and child abuse – Personnel Subcommittee hearing on ‘Domestic Violence and Child Abuse in the Military’, with testimony from Adrian Perry; Merci McKinley; Doorways for Women and Families’ Iris Vega; Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness’ Senior Policy Advisor Stephanie Barna; Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Principal Investigator Dr Casey Taft; Johns Hopkins School of Nursing Professor Dr Jacquelyn Campbell; and Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy Professor Dr Kenneth Dodge Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

Dem Sen. Elizabeth Warren holds latest chamber floor speech on ‘Senate’s effort to deregulate big banks’ – Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren holds latest in a series of speeches on the chamber floor this week against ‘the Senate’s effort to deregulate big banks 10 years after the financial crisis’, today discussing ‘repeating history of deregulating Wall Street and precipitating another financial crisis’ \* The chamber is this week debating the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act – legislation which would roll back some of the regulations brought in by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.warren.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenWarren>

New Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform meets for the first time – Newly-formed Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform meets for the first time \* Committee was created by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and tasked with identifying and recommending reforms to the budget and appropriations process. Co-chairs are House Committee on the Budget Chairman Steve Womack and House Committee on Appropriations Ranking Member Nita Lowey, with 16 members (eight from each party, eight from each chamber) – Republican Reps. Womack, Pete Sessions, Rob Woodall, and Jodey Arrington, Democratic Reps. Lowey, John Yarmuth, Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Derek Kilmer, Republican Sens. Roy Blunt, David Perdue, James Lankford, and Joni Ernst, and Democratic Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Michael Bennet, and Mazie Hirono Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://budget.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/housebudgetgop>

**US House:** 9:00 AM House Armed Services subcommittees joint hearing on ‘Mobility and Transportation Command Posture’ – Readiness Subcommittee and Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Mobility and Transportation Command Posture’, with testimony from U.S. Transportation Command Commander Gen. Darren McDew; and Maritime Administration Administrator Mark Buzby Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC

[www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

9:00 AM House expected to vote on Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 1119 – Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

<http://www.house.gov/>

10:00 AM FDA and CDC heads testify to House Commerce subcommittee on seasonal influenza preparedness and response – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining U.S. Public Health Preparedness for and Response Efforts to Seasonal Influenza', with testimony from Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb; CDC Acting Director Dr Anne Schuchat; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response and Biomedical Advances Research and Development Authority Director Dr Rick Bright; and NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr Anthony Fauci Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM American Kidney Fund Congressional breakfast briefing 'Women and Kidney Disease' – American Kidney Fund Congressional breakfast briefing 'Women and Kidney Disease' – held to honor World Kidney Day and International Women's Day – with speakers including Congressional Kidney Caucus co-chair / Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues member Democratic Rep. Suzan DelBene, a nephrologist, woman who had kidney disease during pregnancy, a wife who donated her kidney to her husband, and a multi-generational family dealing with kidney failure and dialysis Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC

[www.kidneyfund.org](http://www.kidneyfund.org) <https://twitter.com/KidneyFund>

10:30 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Arlington National Cemetery – Military Personnel Subcommittee hearing on 'Arlington National Cemetery – Preserving the Promise', with testimony from Military Officers Association of America Associate Director of Government Relations Forrest Allen; The American Legion Deputy Director of Medical/Physical Evaluation Boards & Department of Defense Gerardo Avila; Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Service Deputy Director John Towles; Air Force Association Senior Director of Government Relations Col. (Ret.) Keith Zuegel; Department of the Army Executive Director of Army National Military Cemeteries Karen Durham-Aguilera; and Arlington National Cemetery Superintendent Kate Kelley Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

10:30 AM Congressional Progressive Caucus lead press conference marking Minimum Wage Workers' Equal Pay Day – Congressional Progressive Caucus, Center for American Progress Action Fund, and Good Jobs Nation recognize Minimum Wage Workers' Equal Pay Day (1 Mar) via



press conference, calling on Congress to 'increase the minimum wage for the first time in nearly a decade and reject President Donald Trump's heartless cuts to nutrition programs and other investments that minimum wage workers need just to make ends meet'. Speakers include Caucus members Democratic Reps. Raul Grijalva, Mark Pocan, James McGovern, Donald Norcross, and Tulsi Gabbard, CAP Poverty to Prosperity Program Vice President Rebecca Vallas, VoteVets Director of Government Relations Will Fischer, federal contract worker Cynthia Murphy, other Members of Congress, and other minimum wage workers Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC [cpc.grijalva.house.gov](http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/USProgressives>

New Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform meets for the first time – Newly-formed Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform meets for the first time \* Committee was created by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and tasked with identifying and recommending reforms to the budget and appropriations process. Co-chairs are House Committee on the Budget Chairman Steve Womack and House Committee on Appropriations Ranking Member Nita Lowey, with 16 members (eight from each party, eight from each chamber) – Republican Reps. Womack, Pete Sessions, Rob Woodall, and Jodey Arrington, Democratic Reps. Lowey, John Yarmuth, Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Derek Kilmer, Republican Sens. Roy Blunt, David Perdue, James Lankford, and Joni Ernst, and Democratic Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Michael Bennet, and Mazie Hirono Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://budget.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/housebudgetgop>

**Other:** 12:00 PM CAP discussion on 'Upholding Women's Rights in the Resistance of President Trump's Global Gag Rule' – 'Upholding Women's Rights in the Resistance of President Trump's Global Gag Rule' Center for American Progress discussion, on 'the impact of President Donald Trump's Global Gag Rule roughly one year after its implementation'. Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen keynotes, with panelists including Champions of Global Reproductive Rights President and CEO Suzanne Ehlers, WaterAid America Director of Policy and Advocacy Lisa Schechtman, and Embassy of Sweden Counselor for Development Emma Nilsson Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC [www.americanprogress.org](http://www.americanprogress.org) <https://twitter.com/amprog>

DoJ Conference on opioids – Department of Justice conference, addressing the national opioid crisis and assessing the Bureau of Justice Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC [www.justice.gov](http://www.justice.gov) <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

Democratic National Committee Winter Meeting – Democratic National Committee Winter Meeting, featuring caucus, council, and committee meetings, and training sessions. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Terri Sewell, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Charlotte, NC Mayor Vi Lyles, Framingham, MA Mayor Yvonne Spicer, Stockton, CA Mayor Michael Tubbs,

and DC Attorney General Karl Racine, among other local representatives  
Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC  
<http://www.democrats.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheDemocrats>

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "The other storm ravaging the East Coast – specifically Washington, DC – is Stormy Daniels, the adult film star now suing the President."

**James Corden:** "Adult film star Stormy Daniels is back, and this time she is suing Trump, claiming that a 2016 hush agreement preventing her from discussing their affair is invalid because – get this – Trump never signed it. This is amazing, mostly because it's the first time Trump has ever not put his name on something."

**James Corden:** "Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner was sent to Mexico today to head up the United States delegation to meet with the Mexican President. When they heard Kushner was going to visit, Mexico announced that they are going to go ahead and put that wall up themselves."

**Trevor Noah:** "Literally, just a few hours after [President Trump] declared Tuesday no-chaos, great-energy day, news broke that the counsel to the President – and evil Disney stepmom – Kellyanne Conway had apparently broken the law. ... I always thought Kellyanne Conway being on TV was a crime. "

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Last night, Trump's top economic adviser, Gary Cohn, announced he's resigning. At this point, so many staffers have quit that when you call the White House, Trump answers the phone himself. He's like, 'Hello, please hold, I'll connect you. The President speaking.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Here's another story out of Washington that just came out. That in his agreement with adult film star Stormy Daniels, Trump actually used a fake name for himself: David Dennison. Trump is denying this. And referred all questions to his spokesman, David Dennison."

**Seth Meyers:** "President Trump's chief economic adviser, Gary Cohn, announced his resignation yesterday, which means Trump is now down to

just one adviser.”

**Seth Meyers:** “A British trade official said today that the British government is very disappointed in President Trump’s proposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. And ‘very disappointed’ is a strong language for the British. In fact, it’s their highest level on the terror alert system.”

**Seth Meyers:** “In a new interview, Vladimir Putin said that he has no disappointment in President Trump. Putin even said he would happily vote for Trump again.”

**Conan O’Brien:** “Big story in the news. The porn star that claims she had an affair with the President is now suing him. Yeah. It is so weird, it’s almost as if we did elect a Clinton.”

**Conan O’Brien:** “The new Florida weapons bill would allow librarians to arm themselves. Now, in a related story, talking in Florida libraries is down 99 percent.”

**Jordan Klepper:** “Stormy Daniels is alleging Donald Trump paid her hush money. Lie number one – Trump doesn’t pay hush money; Donald Trump pays loud thunder money. Also, this lawsuit wants us to believe that President Donald Trump didn’t sign the agreement. Lie number two – Trump loves signing things. Executive orders, bills, Eric, see?”

**Samantha Bee:** “Guns don’t kill political careers, the NRA does. And lawmakers are scared stiff of attack ads. ... The NRA is like a religion, specifically the best religion, Scientology. Now, look, I am not saying that Scientology and gun culture are exactly the same. For one, Scientology’s got way better songs.”

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform’s terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva’s [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website’s information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at

[BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-09T07:47:28-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 9, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-09T07:47:36-05:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 9, 2018 at 6:00:48 AM EST  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 9, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018 6:00 AM EST**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Associated Press: Interior Spending \$139K To Fix Doors In Sec. Zinke's Office.
- KTOO-FM Juneau (AK): Trump Official Says Interior Aims To Move 'Pretty Quickly' On Arctic Refuge Oil Development.
- Washington Examiner: Religious Leaders Call On Trump Administration To Stop Offshore Drilling Plans.
- Wahkiakum County (WA) Eagle: Congresswoman Herrera Beutler Asks Interior To Analyze Murrelet Strategy.
- Alaska Public Radio Network: Sweeney Interior Nomination In Limbo.
- Huffington Post: Another Trump Administration Official Has An Ethics Problem.
- KUER-FM Salt Lake City: This Is No Reality Show: Federal Employees Reassigned In The Politically Charged Trump Era.
- FEDweek: GAO Calls For Better Scrutiny Of Heavy Equipment Purchases.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- Legislation Would Promote Stronger Tribal Self-Governance.
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Submits Fourth Land Into Trust Application To Restore Full Reservation Status.
- Cop's Death Prompts Debate Over Justice On Tribal Lands.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Durango (CO) Herald: Sen. Cory Gardner, Rep. Scott Tipton Push Bills To Move BLM Headquarters Out West.
- Associated Press: Bundy Leader Of Standoffs Says He'll Run For Nevada Governor.

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- Full Water Supply Expected According To First Bureau Of Reclamation Forecast.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- The Hill: Elephant Trophy Decision Faces Pushback From Some Trump Allies.
- Associated Press: Lawsuit Filed After US Fails To List Walruses As Threatened.
- Courthouse News: Wildlife Groups Sue US Agency Over Carnivore Killing Plan.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Streaked Horned Lark Lawsuit Targets Oregon Farm Exemptions.
- KATC-TV Lafayette (LA): Whooping Cranes In Florida May Have New Home In Louisiana.

- Associated Press: California Salmon Will Have Places To Chill With Dam Removal.

### **National Park Service**

- Auburn (NY) Citizen: Tubman National Park In Auburn: Parties Near Agreement On Managing South Street Site.
- Powell (WY) Tribune: Bighorn Canyon Eyes Free Admission.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: NPS Finishes 2nd Year Of Asphalt Removal Effort At Gulf Islands National Seashore.
- Associated Press: Grand Teton Rangers Halt Aging Bodycam Program.
- Associated Press: Invasive Species Worries Leads Yellowstone To Ban Felt Soles.
- Associated Press: National Park In Virginia Remains Closed After Wind Damage.
- Oroville (CA) Mercury-Register: Comments Open On Lassen Park's Bypass Hell Access Alternatives.
- Associated Press: Yellowstone Fee Proposal Passes Wyoming Legislature.

### **US Geological Survey**

- Pacific Standard: The USGS Director's Newest Job Description: Maintaining 'Scientific Integrity'.
- Associated Press: Trump Plan Ends Research On Uranium Mining Near Grand Canyon.
- Additional Reading.

### **Opinion Pieces**

- Commentary: One Of Trump's Biggest Scandals Is Happening In Utah.
- Editorial: Game Changer On Trophy Hunting.
- BLM Bigwigs Need To Move Out West.
- Additional Reading.

### **Top National News**

- Washington Post: Trump Hails "Great Progress" With North Korea, Will Hold Talks With Kim.
- WSYM-TV Lansing (MI): Trump Announces Tariffs To GOP Criticism, Praise From AFL-CIO.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "What Happened To Trump's Red Line On Chemical Weapons?"
  - "Donald Trump's Empty Words On Trade."
  - "The Trump Administration's Backward Attitude Toward Birth Control."

- Washington Post.
  - "Trump's Belittling Of Allies Is Unworthy Of A US President."
  - "Is Putin's Poison Squad Back In Britain?"
  - "A Rarity For The NRA: Defeat."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Trump's Hoover Temptation."
  - "Xi Jinping's Military Might."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Interior Spending \$139K To Fix Doors In Sec. Zinke's Office.**

The [AP](#) (3/8, Biesecker) reports that the Interior Department is "spending nearly \$139,000 to upgrade three sets of double doors in the office of Secretary Ryan Zinke." According to spokeswoman Heather Swift, "Zinke was not aware of the contract for the work prior to a request about it from The Associated Press." The work was "planned by career facilities and security officials as part of the decade-long modernization of the historic building erected in 1936 a few blocks from the White House, she said." Swift said Thursday in an emailed statement, "The secretary was not aware of this contract but agrees that this is a lot of money for demo, install, materials and labor. Between regulations that require historic preservation and outdated government procurement rules, the costs for everything from pencils to printing to doors is astronomical. This is a perfect example of why the secretary believes we need to reform procurement processes."

[CNN](#) (3/8, Ganim, Wallace, Tatum) reports that "the new doors will be made of fiberglass." The article adds that "the previous sets of doors have been damaged for years, according to an Interior official, to the point where wind and water come into the office during inclement weather, which in turn damaged the historic hardwood floors." According to the official, "damage has caused bottom panels to fall out and be 'replaced with cardboard and duct tape.'"

[The Hill](#) (3/8, Carter) reports that the Sierra Club "issued a statement Thursday slamming Zinke over the report, calling him a 'walking scandal.'" Sierra Club president Ethan Manuel said in the statement, "Now we know that Ryan Zinke isn't using just any door when he shuts the American people out. Like Scott Pruitt, Zinke is a walking scandal who believes he can live the life of luxury on the American taxpayer's dime, and it's time Trump puts a stop to it. We only hope that this \$139,000 door doesn't hit Zinke on his way out."

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (3/8, Adragna), [ABC](#)

News (3/8, Ebbs), Fox News (3/8), Reuters (3/9, Staff), the Huffington Post (3/8, D'Angelo), MarketWatch (3/8, Murphy), New Republic (3/8, Atkin), WJBD-AM Salem (IL) Salem, IL (3/8), KIVI-TV Boise (ID) Boise, ID (3/8, Jones, Ware), and KSJR-FM Collegeville (MN) Collegeville, MN (3/8).

### **Trump Official Says Interior Aims To Move 'Pretty Quickly' On Arctic Refuge Oil Development.**

KTOO-FM Juneau, AK (3/8, Harball) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt and Assistant Secretary Joe Balash spoke at an industry gathering in Anchorage "after spending several days in North Slope communities." Bernhardt "said the Trump Administration is working to speed along the process leading to oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." He "said in the next few weeks the Interior Department will kick off the regulatory process required before it can hold an oil lease sale in the refuge."

***ANWR Development Protesters Gather As Interior Department Officials Visit Fairbanks.*** The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (3/8, Granger) reports that "a group of more than 50 protesters gathered in front of the Noel Wien Public Library Tuesday afternoon to speak out against the continued movement to develop the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil." The rally was held shortly "after members of the activist group Defend the Sacred learned that Department of Interior officials Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and Assistant Secretary of the Interior Joe Balash would be visiting Fairbanks to speak with local DOI employees about lease sales in ANWR." Jessica Girard, a spokesperson for Defend the Sacred, said, "There have been really not a lot of notifications from the Department of Interior about their arrival in Alaska. It seems that there will be a big announcement this week about the ANWR and so we're going to stand in solidarity with the Gwich'in people who were not informed of these meetings at all to show that we do not agree with this development and or the expeditious nature of working to get leasing sales before 2020."

The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (3/8, Granger) reports that the Interior Department "disputes the claims made by protesters that a Fairbanks meeting between department leaders and employees was a secret meeting about plans to proceed with opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling." Steve Wackowski, senior Interior Department adviser for Alaska Affairs, said, "It wasn't some secret ANWR planning meeting with employees. The topic was 'Meet your department secretary and ask him questions.' We had National Park Service, Office of Aviation Management; folks who had nothing to do with ANWR were in that meeting."

### **Religious Leaders Call On Trump Administration To Stop Offshore Drilling Plans.**

The Washington Examiner (3/8, Justice) reports that "hundreds of religious



leaders penned a letter Thursday to President Trump and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke asking them to end plans to expand offshore drilling and seismic testing in public waters citing 'unacceptable risks to God's oceans and coastal communities.'" The group, part of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, "voiced their opposition to the administration's offshore drilling plans due to environmental safety concerns." The letter stated, "God created the oceans with an abundance of life and, as stewards of God's earth, we should work to preserve and protect God's marine creation. As people of faith, we also uphold our duty to love our neighbors. Oceans provide food sources and livelihoods for millions in the U.S. and globally." They "instead proposed the administration focus on renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar and to work on maximizing energy efficiency."

### **Congresswoman Herrera Beutler Asks Interior To Analyze Murrelet Strategy.**

The [Wahkiakum County \(WA\) Eagle](#) (3/8) reports that Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler in a letter last week urged Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to make sure the habitat conservation plan (HCP) for marbled murrelets is based on science and not politically motivated." According to Herrera Beutler, "under the bird's long term conservation strategy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is requiring rural counties like Pacific and Wahkiakum to set aside state-managed trust timber land from possible harvests to protect the species, thereby jeopardizing the counties' ability to harvest timber and generate revenue to provide basic services to their residents." In her letter, she wrote, "Secretary Zinke, I am asking you to step in on behalf of these counties and to work toward a conservation solution for the marbled murrelet that is both just and scientifically sound. The voice of our rural residents has been drowned out by those who attack their way of life, but I'll continue to speak on their behalf. I hope you will join me."

### **Sweeney Interior Nomination In Limbo.**

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/8, Ruskin) reports the nomination of Tara Sweeney, President Trump's choice to be the next assistant Interior secretary for Indian Affairs, "has been held up for months at the Office of Government Ethics." Sweeney is an executive vice president of Arctic Slope Regional Corp and "also one of the 13,000 shareholders in ASRC." Sen. Lisa Murkowski "says that stock seems to have stumped the government ethics office." According to the article, "normally, if nominees hold stock in an industry regulated by the agency where they're hoping to serve, they can resolve that potential conflict by selling the stock." But "Murkowski says that's not appropriate for shareholders of Alaska Native Corporations, whose stock is issued to eligible Native residents or inherited." Murkowski said, "No Native person should be asked to sell off, or give up their birthright in order to serve in the administration."

**Another Trump Administration Official Has An Ethics Problem.**

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/8, D'Angelo) reports that "a political appointee at the Interior Department attended two private events hosted by her longtime former employer, the right wing Heritage Foundation, which appears to be a violation of federal ethics rules." Lori Mashburn worked as an associate director for the Heritage Foundation from October 2011 to January 2017, according to her financial disclosure form. In May 2017 she was hired as the Interior Department's White House liaison. On Sept. 29, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "gave a speech at Heritage" and "Zinke's personal calendar shows that Mashburn was among several Interior Department officials in attendance at the event." According to the article, "a detailed schedule the department released as part of a public records request shows that after the public event, Mashburn joined Zinke and other agency officials for a private luncheon with several high-ranking Heritage Foundation employees." The article notes that "Mashburn also joined Zinke at a private Heritage affair on Oct. 16 at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, a government building that primarily houses White House staff."

**This Is No Reality Show: Federal Employees Reassigned In The Politically Charged Trump Era.**

[KUER-FM](#) Salt Lake City (3/8, Fahys) reports that "Matthew Allen used to lead the communications team at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Washington headquarters," but he was demoted "two days after another embarrassing leak from the Interior Department." The Washington Post had "published a map that showed drastic cuts that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was proposing for the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in southern Utah." Allen "suspects he lost his job because of that leak." He said in an interview, "My belief is that they suspected me of leaking a series of sensitive documents to the press. They're trying to make an example of this is what happens when you can't be trusted or when you're not 'loyal to the flag,' as the secretary likes to say." Allen was moved to the Bureau of Environmental Safety and Enforcement. He said, "I'm making approximately \$160,000 a year, with nobody to supervise, with no clear job duties or responsibilities. That doesn't feel like a good use of taxpayer dollars."

**GAO Calls For Better Scrutiny Of Heavy Equipment Purchases.**

[FEDweek](#) (3/8) reports that "federal agencies spend some \$7.4 billion a year to purchase heavy equipment but are not fully considering whether some of that could have been leased instead, GAO has said." GAO "looked in-depth at the Air Force, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, which together spent about \$360 million in purchases over 2012-2016, compared with only \$5 million in lease expenses over that time." It found that officials "did not consistently conduct or document lease-versus-purchase analyses." Interior "concurred with recommendations that they should clarify the circumstances in which lease-versus-purchases analyses

for heavy equipment acquisitions are to be conducted and documented.”

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **Legislation Would Promote Stronger Tribal Self-Governance.**

The Minot (ND) Daily News (3/9) reports that Sens. John Hoeven and Tom Udall, chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, respectively, “on Wednesday introduced bipartisan legislation to improve the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and promote stronger tribal self-governance.” The Practical Reforms and Other Goals to Reinforce the Effectiveness of Self-Governance and Self-Determination (PROGRESS) for Indian Tribes Act “would streamline the Department of the Interior’s self-governance process and provide Indian tribes with greater flexibility to efficiently tailor, consolidate and administer federal programs for their communities.”

### **Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Submits Fourth Land Into Trust Application To Restore Full Reservation Status.**

Potsdam (NY) North Country Now (3/8) reports that “the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe recently submitted its fourth Land into Trust application with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.” The application, “which would restore full reservation status and tribal authority over lands illegally taken by the State of New York, is part of a comprehensive plan surrounding settlement of the tribe’s decades-old land claim case.” The tribe has “filed four applications for a total of six parcels.”

### **Cop’s Death Prompts Debate Over Justice On Tribal Lands.**

The Taos (NM) News (3/8, Oxford) reports that federal prosecutors seek “the death penalty for Kirby Cleveland, a Navajo man accused of killing a tribal police officer in 2017.” The case could “signal that U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions will take a more aggressive approach with the death penalty in Indian Country, though most tribes, including the Navajo Nation, are opposed to capital punishment.” According to the article, “regardless of how it plays out, Cleveland’s case is likely to revive a debate on race, sovereignty and just who can deliver justice on reservations across New Mexico – and the country.”

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Sen. Cory Gardner, Rep. Scott Tipton Push Bills To Move BLM Headquarters Out West.**

The Durango (CO) Herald (3/8, Eversden) reports that Sen. Cory Gardner and Rep. Scott Tipton are “ramping up their calls to move the Bureau of Land Management headquarters from Washington, D.C., to the West.” The legislators have “introduced similar legislation in the House and Senate, called the Bureau of Land Management Headquarters Relocation Act, which directs the Department of Interior to create a strategy.” Gardner said in an

interview Thursday, "I spoke to Secretary Zinke (Wednesday) again about the idea and I said, 'Hey, you got to move this. I think that they are looking very favorably with the reorganization moving (BLM) to the West."

### **Bundy Leader Of Standoffs Says He'll Run For Nevada Governor.**

The [AP](#) (3/8) reports, "A leader of two high-profile armed standoffs with US agents whose Bundy ranching family has decried federal ownership of public land says he'll mount an independent bid to succeed term-limited Gov. Brian Sandoval (R-NV) this fall. Ryan Bundy "said Thursday that he doesn't think other candidates" in the race "would properly protect states' rights. The 45-year-old son of Cliven Bundy says he intends to file candidacy papers next Wednesday in Las Vegas and embark on a statewide speaking tour."

The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (3/8, DeHaven) reports that Bundy's bid "would count as an unwelcome development for Republicans, since" he "will likely siphon off general election votes that might've otherwise gone to the" GOP nominee. The Bundys "rose to prominence in 2014, amid a" standoff "with federal agents at the family's Southern Nevada ranch" over "a decades-old dispute over unpaid federal grazing fees on the Bundy's Southern Nevada ranch." Over "a dozen participants [were] arrested and indicted on federal felony charges. The case against the Bundys was dismissed...in January. Ryan Bundy added to his national profile in January 2016, when he helped lead another well-armed clash with federal authorities at the seized headquarters of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, near Burns, Ore."

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

#### **Full Water Supply Expected According To First Bureau Of Reclamation Forecast.**

The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (3/8, Hoang) reports that "there should be full water supply for both junior and senior water rights holders this year, according to the Bureau of Reclamation's monthly water supply forecast released Thursday." According to the article, "temperatures are expected to be around normal and precipitation is expected to be at above average levels in the coming months, which should contribute to full water supply for water rights holders." Chris Lynch, hydrologist with the Bureau of Reclamation, said, "Everything is looking good."

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

#### **Elephant Trophy Decision Faces Pushback From Some Trump Allies.**

[The Hill](#) (3/8, Green) reports that the Trump Administration's "decision to reverse course on an Obama-era ban on African elephant trophy imports is facing pushback from some allies of President Trump." According to the article, "while hunting advocacy groups and members of Congress who back them are cheering the decision from the Department of Interior's Fish

and Wildlife Service (FWS) to allow imports on a case-by-case basis, others are knocking the move." The article notes that "two conservative media hosts who pushed Trump in November to put a pause on a decision to overturn an established trophy import ban are among those urging him to hold up the Obama-era order." Fox News host Laura Ingraham "tweeted a plea to Trump on Wednesday asking him to change the new policy and warning him what could happen to supporters if he did not." Also, conservative radio host Michael Savage has "spoken out against the FWS policy this week, writing in a blog post Wednesday that he 'felt betrayed' by the administration's secret decision after having previously spoken in person with Trump on the issue."

E&E Publishing (3/8, Doyle) reports that if "Trump has spent his last round on an issue that threatened to alienate his allies in the hunting and gun-rights communities, the next steps will unfold more quietly." The article notes that "the Fish and Wildlife Service's March 1 memo explaining the new case-by-case policy was filed with U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., where a federal judge under the dictates of a Dec. 22, 2017, appellate court ruling will be sending a follow-up order to the agency." Greg Sheehan, principal deputy director of FWS, said in an email, "We are awaiting the District Court's remand back to the Service before implementing this approach."

***Google, Facebook Join Global Fight To Stop Online Wildlife Trafficking.*** ABC News (3/8, Allen) reports that "Google and Facebook joined more than a dozen major tech firms in the fight against illegal trophy hunting, part of a larger effort aimed at stopping poachers from selling banned products like ivory, rhino horns and tiger cubs online." The World Wildlife Fund said in a statement Wednesday, "Advances in technology and connectivity across the world, combined with rising buying power and demand for illegal wildlife products, have increased the ease of exchange from poacher to consumer. As a result, an unregulated online market allows criminals to sell illegally obtained wildlife products across the globe. Purchasing elephant ivory, tiger cubs, and pangolin scales is as easy as click, pay, ship." Twenty-one tech firm "from around the globe, including eBay and Microsoft, have agreed to join the WWF's new Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, according to the fund, which said it plans to reduce wildlife trafficking 80 percent by 2020."

#### **Lawsuit Filed After US Fails To List Walrus As Threatened.**

The AP (3/8, Joling) reports that an environmental group sued the Trump Administration Thursday over its failure to list Pacific walrus "as threatened because of diminished sea ice – their primary habitat – brought on by climate warming." In October, "facing a court-ordered deadline for a final decision," the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "said it could not conclude with certainty that walrus would be affected by ice loss because they have shown an ability to forage from shoreline resting areas." Emily Jeffers, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity, said, "We're

confident the court will see this reckless finding as a politically driven decision that completely ignores the agency's legal obligations to protect imperiled wildlife."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/8, Cama) and [Courthouse News](#) (3/8, LOUIS).

### **Wildlife Groups Sue US Agency Over Carnivore Killing Plan.**

[Courthouse News](#) (3/8, Pampuro) reports that "environmental groups are calling out the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for agreeing to fund a state's carnivore kill experiment." Last December, the FWS "agreed to fund 75 percent of a multi-million dollar project proposed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife aimed to boost local mule deer populations, but according to a petition filed in the state Supreme Court Wednesday, the agency failed to adequately analyze the project's environmental impact." The petition asks the court to "give the public a more meaningful opportunity to analyze the environmental effects of and submit comments."

### **Streaked Horned Lark Lawsuit Targets Oregon Farm Exemptions.**

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (3/8, Perkowski) reports that "exemptions for common farming practices in Oregon's Willamette Valley are targeted in an environmentalist lawsuit over federal protections for the threatened streaked horned lark." An environmental organization is "challenging the federal government's decision to exempt common farm activities from the prohibition against 'taking' streaked horned larks." According to the lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity, "the government failed to explain why the exemption would help conserve the species when its population had declined while these "routine" activities were occurring."

### **Whooping Cranes In Florida May Have New Home In Louisiana.**

[KATC-TV Lafayette, LA](#) (3/8) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Whooping Crane Recovery Team is "proposing to move 14 whooping cranes that live at Kissimmee Prairie in central Florida to a larger and more robust population of cranes in Vermilion Parish." The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (3/8, Behrendt, Pittman) reports that according to the FWS, the Kissimmee whoopers have "experienced a high rate of mortality and low reproductive success related to habitat conditions, predation, and power line strikes." The article adds that "unless they're moved to join a flock in Louisiana that now numbers about 60, experts say those Florida cranes would likely just die out."

### **California Salmon Will Have Places To Chill With Dam Removal.**

The [AP](#) (3/8, Knickmeyer) reports that "a \$100 million project removing dams and helping fish route around others is returning a badly endangered salmon to spring-fed waters in northernmost California, giving cold-loving native fish a life-saving place to chill as scientists say climate change, drought and human diversions warm the waters." State and federal

officials, "in a years-long project with dam-owner Pacific Gas & Electric Co., plan to release 200,000 young, endangered winter-run Chinook salmon over the next two months into the north fork of Battle Creek, where melted snow percolating through volcanic rock provides ideal habitat for native salmon and steelhead that thrive in cold mountain water."

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/9, Fimrite) and the [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (3/8, Schoonover).

## **National Park Service**

---

### **Tubman National Park In Auburn: Parties Near Agreement On Managing South Street Site.**

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (3/8, Harding) reports that "Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., and the National Park Service are close to finalizing an agreement that will detail how the entities will manage the main sites associated with the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn." Frank Barrows, superintendent of Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome and project lead for the Tubman park, "said Wednesday that the implementation agreement is under National Park Service internal legal reviews." An executed agreement is expected by Sept. 30.

### **Bighorn Canyon Eyes Free Admission.**

The [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (3/8, Davis) reports that Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area "may soon be more, or less, affordable to visit." According to the article, "a recent cost benefit analysis shows the National Park Service property actually spends about three times more on expenses and labor to collect fees than they bring in." Park officials have "sent a fee adjustment request to the regional office." Christy Fleming, chief of interpretation for the park, said, "We're not sure where it stands right now. By summer, we may not have a fee program. However, if the Washington office denies [the proposal] and says we need to continue to collect fees, it could go up. We would have to do \$15 per day."

### **NPS Finishes 2nd Year Of Asphalt Removal Effort At Gulf Islands National Seashore.**

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (3/8, Gabriel) reports that the National Park Service "this month completed the second year of its five-year project to clean weathered asphalt from miles of beach stretching from Navarre in the east to Perdido Key in the west" at Gulf Islands National Seashore. The project is "being funded through \$10.85 million in restitution money paid by oil giant BP in the aftermath of the 2010 Gulf Coast oil spill." According to Kelly Irick, the park service biologist overseeing the project, "using mechanical sifters and handheld rakes, a crew of about 40 workers cleaned about 200 acres of Gulf Islands National Seashore's Santa Rosa Area from September through the end of February."

### **Grand Teton Rangers Halt Aging Bodycam Program.**

The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that "Grand Teton National Park officials say rangers have stopped recording interactions on body cameras and dashcams, citing an aging and costly camera system." The program has "been in operation at the western Wyoming park for over a decade, but it was suspended indefinitely in January while officials search for an alternative." Chief Ranger Michael Nash "says the park's camera system was becoming outdated with body cameras breaking and batteries losing charge." Park public affairs officer Denise Germann "says storage for the camera footage was also an issue, and downloading that footage was time-consuming for rangers."

### **Invasive Species Worries Leads Yellowstone To Ban Felt Soles.**

The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that "concerns over aquatic invasive species have led Yellowstone National Park officials to ban the use of felt sole boots or waders and to set a boating season during which watercraft inspections will be available." Park officials "say rubber sole boots will be allowed because they trap fewer organisms and can be cleaned with water and a scrub brush." The boating season will run from May 26 through Nov. 4.

### **National Park In Virginia Remains Closed After Wind Damage.**

The [AP](#) (3/9) reports that Prince William Forest Park "remains closed a week after heavy winds damaged hundreds of trees and created dangerous conditions there." According to the article, "crews have cleared more than 600 fallen and hazardous trees...following last week's wind storm." Officials expect the park "to remain closed for another two or three weeks."

### **Comments Open On Lassen Park's Bumpass Hell Access Alternatives.**

The [Oroville \(CA\) Mercury-Register](#) (3/8, Schoonover) reports that "three alternatives have been developed to revamp access to Bumpass Hell in Lassen Volcanic National Park, and a 30-day comment period has opened on the environmental assessment of the three options." The preferred option will "maintain the current boardwalk configuration in the basin, and make improvements to the trail from the main park road."

### **Yellowstone Fee Proposal Passes Wyoming Legislature.**

The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that "the Wyoming Legislature has passed a proposal to collect a fee at Yellowstone National Park to fund wildlife conservation efforts in the states surrounding the park." The measure, "which also involves neighboring Grand Teton National Park, was approved Thursday and now goes to Gov. Matt Mead for his consideration." The article notes that "since only the federal government can impose fees in national parks, the resolution seeks to start a conversation between the three states and federal officials."

### **US Geological Survey**

---



### **The USGS Director's Newest Job Description: Maintaining 'Scientific Integrity'.**

The [Pacific Standard](#) (3/8, Diep) reports that "during Tuesday's confirmation hearing with the Committee on Energy & Natural Resources for James Reilly, President Donald Trump's nominee for USGS director, congresspeople emphasized that Reilly would have to protect the scientists in his agency and maintain a sort of firewall between their scientific work and any political agendas." Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the committee chair, said, "My hope, my ask, is that you maintain that integrity within the agency." The article notes that "the new emphasis on safeguarding science also comes after a series of Trump nominees who have worried advocates because of their conflicts of interest."

### **Trump Plan Ends Research On Uranium Mining Near Grand Canyon.**

The [AP](#) (3/8, Fonseca) reports that "U.S. scientists studying the effects of uranium mining around the Grand Canyon say they are lacking information on whether the radioactive element is hurting plants, animals and a water source for more than 30 million people." Moreover, "they would not get to fully gather it if President Donald Trump's 2019 budget proposal is approved." The U.S. Geological Survey is "leading a 15-year study meant to determine whether a 1 million-acre area surrounding the national park needs protection from new uranium mining claims well into the future." The USGS "says it's received far less for its study than what's needed so far and would be left with nothing under Trump's plan, which eliminates the money in favor of other priorities."

### **Additional Reading.**

- [Lake Pontchartrain Basin Being Monitored For Spillway Environmental Effects](#). [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (3/8, Schleifstein).

### **Opinion Pieces**

---

#### **Commentary: One Of Trump's Biggest Scandals Is Happening In Utah.**

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/8, Erickson), Peter Erickson, a senior scientist in the Seattle office of the Stockholm Environment Institute, writes that a new study in the research journal *Climatic Change* "shows the scale of how public lands are still used to worsen the climate catastrophe." Researchers "found that about one-quarter of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions arise from burning fossil fuels pulled from public soil." But more importantly, Erickson writes, "we found that these fossil fuels aren't needed." According to Erickson, "were the federal government to stop issuing new leases, whether at Bureau of Land Management offices in the west or Bureau of Ocean Energy Management offices in Washington, federal fossil fuel production – and emissions thereof – would gradually decline, lessening our culpability for climate change, and aiding the

transition to plentiful, renewable energy.”

### **Editorial: Game Changer On Trophy Hunting.**

In an editorial, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/9) criticizes the move by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to lift restrictions “on big-game trophies from several African countries.” According to the paper, “while supporters of big-game hunting argue that the substantial fees paid by hunters help fund conservation of vulnerable species such as African elephants, the overturned prohibitions targeted countries where the fees hadn’t been shown to consistently further protection of animals.”

### **BLM Bigwigs Need To Move Out West.**

In an editorial, the [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (3/8) supports moving the headquarters for the Bureau of Land Management to the West. The paper says “the logic of this idea isn’t hard for people in the West to understand.” That is, the BLM’s “decisions impact the livelihoods of people who populate rural communities, but those decisions are made far from the forests, grasslands and high deserts they call home.”

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Should The US Ban Hunters From Importing Elephant Trophies?*. [NJ News](#) (3/8) .
- *Mining Reform America And Arizona Need Would Protect The Environment.* [Arizona Capitol Times](#) (3/8, Krill).
- *Drill, Donnie, Drill!* [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) New Times](#) (3/8).
- *US Doesn’t Need Orange County’s Coast To Achieve Energy Independence.* [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (3/8, Dunn, Brown).
- *FOIA Requests Will Be Fewer If Information Is More Accessible.* [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/8).

## **Top National News**

---

### **Trump Hails “Great Progress” With North Korea, Will Hold Talks With Kim.**

Media reports of Thursday’s announcement of talks between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un hail the development as historic, noting that no US president has ever met with a North Korean leader. A number of media analyses are crediting the President for bringing about a significant diplomatic accomplishment. Under the headline “Trump’s Bellicosity Secures A Diplomatic Coup – For Now,” for example, the [Washington Post](#) (3/8, A1, DeYoung) reports on its front page that “for the moment, at least, it appears to be a clear-cut victory – the biggest foreign policy win of his young administration. ... Even pessimists acknowledged that Trump’s hard line against Pyongyang, after decades of less forceful US effort, played a significant role in moving one of the

world's most vexing and threatening problems in a potentially positive direction."

The New York Times (3/8, Landler) says the President "expressed his optimism about the meeting," tweeting Thursday evening, "Kim Jong Un talked about denuclearization with the South Korean Representatives, not just a freeze. Also, no missile testing by North Korea during this period of time. Great progress being made but sanctions will remain until an agreement is reached. Meeting being planned!" The Times says that for Trump, a meeting with Kim "is a breathtaking gamble," but both leaders "share a penchant for bold, dramatic moves, and their personal participation in a negotiation could take it in unexpected directions."

The Washington Examiner (3/8, Westwood, Correll) reports that a "senior Administration official" pointed to "North Korea's 'commitment to denuclearize' and the regime's promise to stop testing weapons as reasons why Trump decided to accept Kim's invitation."

Sean Hannity said on Fox News' Hannity (3/8), "President Trump scoring big win and possibly averting a major global nuclear crisis tonight with North Korea." To Politico (3/8, Bender, Toosi, Cook), the talks "could be the biggest breakthrough in the tense nuclear saber-rattling that has defined the president's stance since taking office," while Axios (3/8, Britzky) says it is a "stunning announcement...given just a few months ago the leaders were exchanging threats of nuclear destruction." The Los Angeles Times (3/8, Bennett) calls it "an extraordinary invitation," and says "any face-to-face meeting, if it takes place, would be historic." Reuters (3/7, Mason, Spetalnick) says the possibility of talks between the two leaders "a potentially dramatic breakthrough in the North Korea nuclear standoff," and according to Bloomberg News (3/8, Olorunnipa, Kong), Trump's "decision to meet soon with Kim is supported by his Vice President Mike Pence."

In what ABC World News Tonight (3/8, story 2, 0:40, Muir) called "something very rare," President Trump went into the White House briefing room Thursday evening and told reporters "cryptically" that an importation announcement on North Korea would be made soon. The CBS Evening News (3/8, story 3, 0:40, Glor) likewise said the President "surprised a lot of folks by popping into the briefing room." NBC Nightly News (3/8, lead story, 2:35, Welker) also reported on the President's appearance in the briefing room.

Shortly afterwards, USA Today (3/8, Korte, Jackson) reports, South Korean national security adviser Chung Eui-yong told reporters outside the White House Trump will meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for nuclear talks "by May." A South Korean delegation led by Chung was in Washington on Thursday to brief Administration officials on their talks earlier this week with Kim. Chung told reporters, "I explained to President Trump that his leadership, and his maximum pressure policy, along with international solidarity, brought us to this juncture."

The Washington Post (3/8, Fifield) reports White House Press

Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement, "President Trump greatly appreciates the nice words of the South Korean delegation and President Moon. He will accept the invitation to meet with Kim Jong Un at a place and time to be determined." Chung, the Post notes, "credited Trump for bringing the North Korean leader to the table, continuing Seoul's deliberate efforts to flatter the American president."

Chung, the AP (3/9, Pennington) reports, said he had told Trump that Kim says he is committed to "denuclearization" and "has pledged that North Korea will refrain from any further nuclear or missile tests – providing a rare diplomatic opening after a year of escalating tensions over the North's tests." The Wall Street Journal (3/8, A1, Gordon, Cheng) notes Kim made a similar pledge to South Korean President Moon Jae-in last week.

The Washington Times (3/8, Boyer) reports the delegation led by Chung briefed Trump in the Oval Office Thursday on their talks this week with Kim, along with National Security Adviser McMaster, Defense Secretary Mattis, Chief of Staff Kelly and "other US officials."

***State Dept. Scrambling To Assemble Team For Talks.*** The Washington Post (3/8, Sonne, Hudson) says Trump's "high-wire gambit to accept a meeting with...Kim Jong Un sets off a scramble among US officials to assemble a team capable of supporting a historic summit of longtime adversaries and determine a viable engagement strategy." State Department officials, including Secretary of State Tillerson, were "playing down the immediacy of talks in the hours before" the "surprise announcement." The Post says the "apparent lack of coordination marked a pattern of mixed messaging that has characterized the Trump administration's North Korea diplomacy."

Bloomberg Politics (3/8, Wadhams) too says Tillerson "played down hopes for a breakthrough on North Korea's nuclear program," saying the US is a "long way" from negotiations with Pyongyang. Speaking to reporters in Addis Ababa, Tillerson said, "We're a long way from negotiations, we just need to be very clear-eyed and realistic about it."

***Graham: Talks Present "Best Hope In Decades."*** The New York Post (3/8, Tacopino) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham said Thursday that he hoped for peace on the Korean Peninsula, but warned Kim Jong Un that "it will be the end" of him and his regime if he tried to take advantage of President Trump. Graham said the talks presented the "best hope in decades" to peacefully resolve the threat of nuclear conflict, but added "that if the past is an indications of the future, North Korea will be all talk and no action."

***Kristof: "A Dangerous Gamble And A Bad Idea."*** In his New York Times (3/8) column, Nicholas Kristof calls the development "stunning," but adds, "it's also, I think, a dangerous gamble and a bad idea. I can't believe I'm saying that. For many years, over several trips to North Korea, I've argued for direct talks between the United States and North Korea, and it's certainly better to be engaging the North than bombing it. ... But the proper way to hold a summit is with careful preparation." Kim and Trump,

Kristof cautions, "are both showmen with a flair for the dramatic and unexpected. That would make a summit thrilling – but creates great risks if everything turns out wrong."

***CBS News: South Korea Using Pop Culture As Propaganda Against North.***

Meanwhile, the CBS Evening News (3/8, story 10, 2:25, Glor) reported, "How do you deal with a belligerent neighbor that constantly parades its tanks and fires off missiles? If you're South Korea, you crank up the music." South Korea's military "blasts" K-Pop music across the border "to let North Koreans know what they're missing." Meanwhile, with South Korea TV programs and the Internet prohibited in North Korea, one "aid group puts flash drives containing soap operas and movies inside bottles of much-needed rice and floats them towards the North."

**Trump Announces Tariffs To GOP Criticism, Praise From AFL-CIO.**

President Trump's announcement on steel and aluminum tariffs received extensive, including reports on all three major network newscasts and extensive local TV coverage throughout the Rust Belt. Illustrating how the trade debate is defying the usual partisan battle lines, the decision by Trump generated strong criticism from his own party and from business groups – even as it received praise from the steel and aluminum industries, organized labor and several red-state Democrats up for reelection in the fall.

Local TV reports in the Midwest were mostly sympathetic to Trump's actions. WSYM-TV Lansing, MI (3/8, 5:42 p.m. EST), for example, reported that Trump "made steel tariffs one of the cornerstones of his campaign, promising he would make sure American companies are getting a fair shake." Yesterday, "he followed through, signing a proclamation to implement them." WLWT-TV Cincinnati (3/8, 5:37 p.m. EST) reported that "the move does have the support of union leaders and Democratic lawmakers from Rust Belt states eager to revive industries hurting from excess production by China."

NBC News (3/8, Rafferty) similarly reported on its website that Trump's move "found support in some unlikely allies – red state Democrats," in particular "vulnerable Democrats up for re-election in November like Pennsylvania's Bob Casey, West Virginia's Joe Manchin and Wisconsin's Tammy Baldwin," who "represent states where Trump's message on manufacturing and trade resonated in 2016." The CBS Evening News (3/8, story 2, 2:00, Reid) showed Manchin saying, "I'm encouraged. I really am. And I think it gives us a chance, basically, to reboot, get jobs back to West Virginia, back to America. I'm excited about that." Breitbart (3/8, Boyle) also notes Manchin's comments.

Moreover, Politico (3/8, Restuccia, Behsudi) reports that "the president's decision...brought cheers from the steel industry and organized labor." Said the AFL-CIO's Richard Trumka, "Wall Street's hair is on fire over these tariffs because wealthy investors enrich themselves by closing mills and factories in the United States and moving them overseas. ...

Using tariffs isn't going to start a trade war. There's been a war on working people for decades, and we have been getting our butts kicked. Just look at southwestern Pennsylvania if you want proof." Trumka also tweeted, "People may not like how Pres Trump rolled these out, but I applaud him for trying."

In fact, Trumka's rhetoric was at minimum reminiscent of Trump's.  NBC Nightly News (3/8, lead story, 2:35, Welker), which remarked on "opposition from many top Republicans who warn" the tariffs "could spark a trade war," showed Trump saying, "The workers who poured their souls into building this great nation were betrayed. But that betrayal is now over. I'm delivering on a promise I made during the campaign, and I've been making it for a good part of my life."

WJAC-TV Johnstown, PA (3/8, 6:11 p.m. EST) reported that Trump "was flanked by steel and aluminum workers as he claimed that trade practices by other nations have been what he's calling an assault on America." WJAC added, "With heavy blowback from Congressional Republicans, the president defended the move, arguing a healthy metals industry is vital to national security." Trump was shown saying, "A strong steel and aluminum industry are vital to our national security. Absolutely vital. Steel is steel. You don't have steel you don't have a country."

WTAE-TV Pittsburgh (3/8, 6:13 p.m. EST) reported on "the implications now for workers...in western Pennsylvania." WTAE showed Lane Steel President Paul Gedeon saying, "The tariffs will help if they are done the right way, if it's fair. Like, Canada should be excluded." WTAE added that Gedeon "says there is some foreign steel America needs and putting tariffs on all would hurt the US too." Gedeon: "A concern with that is it's like a cancer drug that kills good cells and bad cells."

The Detroit News (3/8, Laing) reports that Trump said yesterday, "This is not merely an economic disaster, but it's a security disaster. ... We want to build our ships, we want to build our planes, we want to build our military equipment with steel, with aluminum from our country. And now we're finally taking action to correct this long overdue problem. It's a travesty." Writing for National Review (3/8), Jack Crowe said the President's "emphasis on national security – Trump invoked the term numerous times during his speech – has prompted speculation that the administration is angling to avoid World Trade Organization sanctions, which punish members for implementing tariffs for reasons other than national security." Along those lines, Commerce Secretary Ross argues in the Wall Street Journal (3/8) this morning that the tariffs are necessary to protect US security and to protect the well-being of US workers.

Bret Baier said on  Fox News' Special Report (3/8), "Politically, the image of the President with those steelworkers telling their stories about companies that are slowing down, shutting down, losing work, that politically works for this President." Joan Walsh of The Nation said on  CNN's The Lead (3/8), "This really looked like a campaign rally. ... He talked about loving the workers. He talked about the farmers. He talked

about how good he is going to be to all these people. It was political theater and nothing more.”

GOP opposition to Trump’s move was a major theme in the coverage. The AP (3/8, Thomas), for example, casts the President as “unswayed by Republican warnings of a trade war” and The Hill (3/8, Fabian, Needham) as “defying his own party and delivering on a campaign promise,” while the Washington Post (3/8, Rucker, Werner) says he “bucked his party allies to pursue his long-held goal of rewriting what he views as rigged rules of international trade.” However, where he “sees an opportunity to protect US manufacturing and blue-collar workers, his fellow Republicans – joined by some Democrats, business leaders and many economists – fear he’s embarking on an impractical negotiating process that could escalate into a global trade war.” At any rate, “few fellow Republicans appeared to have much appetite to challenge the move legislatively.” Business Insider (3/8, Perticone) similarly indicates that Republicans “have been distraught over...Trump’s proposal to slap tariffs on aluminum and steel,” but they “are at a loss over what they can do about it other than plead for mercy from the White House.”

Some appear intent on trying. USA Today (3/8, Gaudio, Shesgreen) reports “at least one Republican senator said Congress would try to overturn” the tariffs. Said Sen. Jeff Flake, “Some of us are just waiting to see what he does, and then we’ll draft legislation quickly to nullify it. ... That’s what I’m going to do.” Reuters (3/8) and Politico (3/8, Everett, Schor) also report on Flake’s statement.

☒ ABC World News Tonight (3/8, lead story, 3:25, Karl) reported “the tariffs, 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum, will be imposed on all imported steel except from Canada and Mexico, which are exempt, but only for now.” As the AP (3/8, Thomas) reports, Trump explained Canada and Mexico are “exempted ‘to see if we can make the deal.’” Townhall (3/8, O'Brien) noted that Trump said, “I have a feeling we’re going to make a deal on NAFTA. ... If we do, there won’t be any tariffs on Canada and there won’t be any tariffs on Mexico.” Commerce Secretary Ross said on ☒ CNBC’s Closing Bell (3/8), “I think there’s no question that the action the President took today is a further motivation to both Canada and Mexico to make a fair arrangement with the United States. It’s pretty clear that is the case. This is not being done though just as a negotiating ploy. We are deadly serious about solving the problem in steel, aluminum, and as the weeks and months go by, other industries. The important thing is solving the problem. The less important thing is the exact mechanism for doing it, but we have to get it done.”

The Detroit Free Press (3/8, Spangler, Howard) notes that “other countries, and presumably industries, could negotiate with the Trump administration for exclusions as well.” CNBC (3/8, Cox) cited an “Administration official” who said “determining further exceptions will depend on whether countries can convince Trump that there’s a ‘satisfactory alternative means’ for resolving trade inequities.” Trump, for

his part, said yesterday, "We're going to show great flexibility." The Wall Street Journal (3/8, Schlesinger, Bender, Nicholas) runs a similar analysis.

The Washington Examiner (3/8, Westwood) reports Trump "encouraged foreign steel and aluminum producers to move their plants to the US to make their metals if they wish to avoid his tariffs, noting the recent tax legislation he signed would also benefit their business if they invested in the US." Reuters (3/8, Lawder, Mason) quotes Trump as saying, "If you don't want to pay tax, bring your plant to the USA." As he said that, he was "flanked by steel and aluminum workers." USA Today (3/8, Jackson) also recounts that "during the signing ceremony, Trump invited some of the steel workers, hard hats in hands, to speak about how their town have been hurt by the decline of the industry."

The Washington Times (3/8, Boyer) point out that "seemingly referring to other possible trade actions, Mr. Trump warned, 'This is only the first stop.'" The President also "said the US could use the tariffs against nations that are not paying their fair share of security alliances." Said Trump, "We're going to see who's treating us fairly, who's not treating us fairly - who's paying the bills, who's not paying the bills." Bloomberg News (3/8, Mayeda, Epstein) also noted Trump "warned there would be more tariffs coming, saying he planned to proceed with what he has called 'reciprocal taxes' on imports from countries that charge higher duties on US goods than the US now charges on their products." Trump said, "We're going to be doing a lot of that."

The New York Times (3/8, Baker, Swanson) reports the US "is the largest steel importer in the world and the order could hit South Korea, China, Japan, Germany, Turkey and Brazil the hardest." Trump "said his tariff orders were tailored to give him the authority to raise or lower levies on a country-by-country basis and add or take countries off the list as he deemed appropriate." Eswar Prasad, a professor of international trade at Cornell University, tells the Times, "This has certainly put the fear of God in America's trading partners. ... The day has actually come when real trade sanctions are on the board."

In a story on the tariffs' rollout, the Washington Post (3/8, Johnson, Kim, Dawsey) reports "the frantic lobbying went late into the night and on into the morning, as business executives, lawmakers and foreign diplomats tried to stop...Trump from implementing steel and aluminum tariffs." While "the idea of imposing tariffs on some imports was cheered at Trump's campaign rallies, Republican lawmakers and members of his administration have argued that instituting penalties on steel and aluminum could prompt other countries to impose retaliatory tariffs that hurt American farmers, producers and manufacturers, including in states that were key to the president's unexpected win in 2016."

Breitbart (3/8, Spiering) headlined its very favorable report "Promises Kept," and the Daily Caller (3/8, Enjeti) noted a "senior administration official lambasted critics of the President's tariffs saying, 'Nobody inside the beltway should express any sort of surprise. These have been well



discussed and one of the most well signaled actions in the history of trade actions. ... This has been extremely well vetted and analyzed.”

Commerce Secretary Ross said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (3/8), “I don't think what we're doing is going to have such harmful economic consequences. The total tariff, assuming all that the steel and all the aluminum still comes in, which will not happen, some will be restricted because they won't pay the tariff, they'll ship it elsewhere, but if it all came through, you're talking \$9 billion a year. In an \$18 or \$19 trillion economy, that's a half of one percent. So, please spare me the idea this is going to be massively destructive to our economy.”

***Humorous Exchange Between Trump, Local Union Leader Recounted.*** [Politico](#) (3/8, Lima) reports the President “turned over the mic to several workers from the industry who were invited to the meeting in the West Wing.” Scott Sauritch, “leader of the Steelworkers 2227 local union in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, told the president and assembled reporters that his father, Herman, a former worker in the steel industry, once lost his job due to increased imports.” Trump replied, “Your father, Herman, he's looking down, and he's very proud of you right now.” After Sauritch responded, “Oh, he's still alive,” the room “burst into laughter,” and Trump quipped, “Then he's even more proud of you.”

***Stocks Closed Higher.*** The [Detroit Free Press](#) (3/8, Spangler, Howard) reports that “the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which plummeted nearly 500 points initially a week ago when Trump first said he would impose the tariffs, appeared to take Thursday's news in stride, up just over 90 points to 24,895 in afternoon trading.” [Reuters](#) (3/8, Carew) indicates “the three major US stock indexes closed higher...after...Trump appeared to soften his stance on trade tariffs, easing trade war fears that had had the market on edge for a week.” The S&P “gained 12.17 points, or 0.45 percent, to 2,738.97 and the Nasdaq Composite added 31.30 points, or 0.42 percent, to 7,427.95.”

***Tribune Analysis: “Hope Coming Back To Granite City.”*** The [Chicago Tribune](#) (3/9, Bomkamp) reports “there's hope coming back to Granite City,” the “small Illinois steel town outside St. Louis” that “felt the bedrock shift in 2015 when one of its biggest and best-paying employers, US Steel, said it would idle its Granite City plant and cut 2,000 jobs.” This Wednesday, “the company said it will restart one of two blast furnaces — where the steelmaking process begins — next month.”

***Media Analyses, Industry Groups, GOP Lawmakers: Trump Tariffs Will Hurt US Economy.*** Most mainstream media reports echoed GOP criticism of Trump's trade moves as unsound economic policy. The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/8, story 2, 2:00, Reid), for example, reported that “here are about 140,000 American steelworkers who could benefit from the tariffs,” but “there are 6.5 million workers in US industries that buy steel that could be harmed.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/8, story 4, 1:05, Schlesinger) also said US “consumers are looking at potentially higher prices,” and added that if “there are those retaliatory measures, that's not good for

growth for the economy" and "may not be very good for the stock market, which could put your 401(k) or IRA at risk." In a report from the Oskar Blues Brewery in Langmont, CO, meanwhile, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/8, story 2, 2:00, Almaguer) said prices are "expected to rise for products like soda cans, electronics, even cars," and at "plants like this one, where they're processing steel today, the impact of new tariffs is unclear, but the uncertainty could lead to downsizing, even layoffs in the near future."

[PBS NewsHour](#) (3/8, Blush), which reported "the proposal was met with near-universal opposition from economists, academics, business leaders and even some top officials in the Trump administration," went on to offer criticism of the plan from a number of "trade experts," who similarly argued the tariffs will lead to job losses for the overall economy. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/8, Lee) echoed those themes in its analysis, and went on to bemoan "the sloppy rollout, lack of details and uncertain process that lay ahead," which "could mean that the tariff plan – like so many other Trump programs – finds itself tied up in legal challenges or congressional roadblocks."

In the lead story for the first hour of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/8), Wolf Blitzer said Trump "may have just started a trade war" in a move that has "infuriated allies." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/8) showed French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian saying that the EU will "introduce countermeasures to...Trump's very inappropriate initiative, which might prove advantageous for the United States right away, but which in the long run will harm the United States' influence in the world." Meanwhile, China "suggested this might be the first shot in a trade war." Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was shown saying, "In the event of a trade war, China will make a justified and necessary response."

The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (3/8, Torry) also reports that Trump's decision "should provide a boost to Ohio's steel industry, but is likely to lead to higher prices for trucks, cars, and machinery." Moreover, "if the new tariffs spark a major trade war, Ohio manufacturing and agricultural exports could be hurt."

The [Detroit News](#) (3/8, Laing) reports that "in a Ford Motor Co. statement released after Thursday's announcement, the company said, 'Despite the fact that Ford buys the vast majority of its steel and aluminum for US production in the US, this action could result in an increase in domestic commodity prices – harming the competitiveness of American manufacturers.'" John Bozzella, CEO of the Association of Global Automakers that "represents foreign-based manufacturers, added: 'Exemptions will not address the fundamental problems tariffs will create for US car and truck manufacturing. Increased costs will make our industry less competitive and harm American workers, consumers, and our economy.'"

[USA Today](#) (3/8, Davidson) reports "Electrolux, Europe's largest home appliance maker, has shelved a \$250 million expansion of a plant in Tennessee. American automakers are forecasting rising prices," and "the

maker of Jack Daniels is warning analysts of a potential hit to earnings.”

The Washington Examiner (3/8, Higgins) reports “the beer lobby on Thursday asked...Trump to include an exception for brewers when his 10 percent tariff on aluminum imports is implemented and argued that it will unnecessarily harm its industry.” Said Jim McGreevy, president of the Beer Institute, “This tariff on aluminum will hurt American breweries and beer importers that are employing Americans and producing beer, America’s most popular alcohol beverage. ... This tariff will raise costs and slow the innovation that has made our nation’s beer industry more vibrant than at any point in history.”


The Albany (NY) Business Review (3/8, Diana) notes that according to a report from Deutsche Bank analyst John Inch, “General Electric Co. could be hit hard as steel and aluminum prices rise” because of the tariffs. Lynch said GE “faces two major risks, higher costs and lost business caused by trade retaliation from other countries.” In fact, the Washington Examiner (3/8, Siegel) reports, “energy industry representatives said Thursday they would be interested in applying for an exemption from...Trump’s order imposing steel and aluminum tariffs.” The Examiner adds that “before Trump made the tariffs official Thursday, a coalition of oil, natural gas and pipeline groups urged the president to allow exemptions for when businesses need steel products from overseas for energy production, processing, refining, transportation, and distribution.”

Reuters (3/8) reports Speaker Ryan “said on Thursday the United States should initiate ‘surgical’ actions against China to stop it from dumping steel and aluminum instead of...Trump’s broader tariff plan.” Speaking to employees of Home Depot in Atlanta, Ryan said, “I really think the best policy is to be surgical and specific. ... I’m just not a fan of broad-based, across-the-board tariffs because I think you’ll have a lot of unintended consequences. You’ll have a lot of collateral damage.”

Reuters (3/8) also reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “said on Thursday he was concerned about the scope” of the tariffs. Said the Kentucky senator, “Members of the Senate, myself included, are concerned about the scope of the proposed tariffs on steel and aluminum and their impact on American citizens and businesses.”

Breitbart (3/8, Hanchett) reports that on CNN’s “New Day,” Sen. Ron Johnson also “stated that he opposes a general tariff, which ‘would actually harm allies, harm American consumers, by the way, harm American workers that use steel in production,’ and that no one wins trade wars.”

The Washington Post (3/8, Zakaria) that “having transformed the party’s views on issues as diverse as immigration, fiscal discipline, foreign policy and law enforcement, if Trump wins the battle over trade with his party, he will have won the war” and the GOP “will be history. And given his long-demonstrated preferences in this regard, who knows — he will probably want to rename it the Trump Party.”

Katie Pavlich of Townhall.com said on  Fox News’ Special Report (3/8), “For Republicans who have criticized this, it’s not just that they on

principle oppose these tariffs, which they do based on the history of how tariffs affect of the economy in this country. They are also doing this politically because if the tariffs do take away all of the gains from tax reform that Republicans have been able to go back to their districts and election year and tout, they can say that they were against it from the beginning, and it's not necessarily their fault because they had that distance from the President on the issue."

Charles Lane of the Washington Post said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/8), "Economically, this is kind of an unsquareable circle. This thing can either have its effect and save those steel jobs...or it can be acceptable to our allies. It can't really be both. What I think the President has set up here is this funny kind of lobby-o-rama in Washington where everybody and their paid hired guns in Washington are going to suddenly bombard the bureaucracy – Bob Lighthizer in particular – with their plea for some kind of a carve out in this thing."

[WKBN-TV](#) Youngstown, OH (3/8, 6:00 p.m. EST) showed Sen. Sherrod Brown saying, "I would've aimed at China rather than Canada. And I would've made the tariff higher against china – 50% more or less rather than the 25% to everybody because I think that China has been the main part of this problem."

***WPost Analysis: US Allies, And Particularly Japan, Feel Insulted By Tariffs.*** Under the headline "US Allies See Trump's Steel Tariffs As An Insult," the [Washington Post](#) (3/8, Fifield, Birnbaum) highlights the effect of Trump's announcement on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who "has cultivated a close personal relationship with his American counterpart" and "has been an enthusiastic supporter of almost everything Trump has said, especially when it comes to putting 'maximum pressure' on North Korea." In addition to being "likely to be slapped with tariffs on its steel exports to the United States," Trump added "insult to injury" by arguing the move "is rooted in national security." The Post adds that "bewilderment, along with anger and frustration, has rippled across the capitals of US allies."

***WSJournal Analysis: Navarro's Trade Policies Are Being Realized.*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/8, Davis) writes that President Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro, who supports Trump's proclaimed steel and aluminum tariffs, could replace recently resigned National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn. The Journal also says Trump's next trade moves may include sanctions on China for intellectual-property violations, which Navarro has also been pushing. The Journal provides background on Navarro's trade policies and the resignation of Cohn.

***WSJournal, NYTimes, WPost, Krugman All Oppose Trump Tariffs.*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/8) denounces the tariffs as reminiscent of 1930s protectionism, which it says aggravated the Great Depression. The Journal also warns Trump that yesterday's decision threatens to undo much of the success he has encountered on the economic front in his first year as president.

The New York Times (3/8) editorializes that "the tariffs will have little impact on China." Rather, their "primary victims...will be American allies like the European Union and South Korea." Trump's "approach should worry everyone concerned about a trade war or the health of the steel and aluminum industries."

Paul Krugman, in his New York Times (3/8) column, says "trade (like racism) is an issue on which Trump has been utterly consistent over the years." His "steel and aluminum tariffs, justified with an obviously bogus appeal to national security, clearly don't pass" that test, "so Trump is in effect both violating US law and throwing the world trading system under the bus. And if this escalates into a full-scale trade war, we'll be back to the bad old days."

The Washington Post (3/8) editorializes, "What's ugliest here is Mr. Trump's relentless and indiscriminate assault on long-standing allies, many of which, he said, 'treat us the worst.'" While "Canada's dependence on the US market is such that it's possible Mr. Trump's squeeze will have its purported intended effect of forcing Canada to give ground in the NAFTA talks," the move will demonstrate "to the world the risks of befriending America, and of dealing openly and honestly with us, Mr. Trump's pressure tactics could have unintended negative consequences for years to come."

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

### **New York Times.**

**"What Happened To Trump's Red Line On Chemical Weapons?"** The New York Times (3/8) editorializes that despite President Trump's early action against Syria for its chemical weapons use, it has failed to deter the Assad regime from using them. In the 11 months since Trump ordered missile attacks on Syria, "there have been many such attacks, including at least six this year," but "Trump seems less sure-footed about responding to atrocities." Amid the most recent attacks, the Times says, "Trump remains silent."

**"Donald Trump's Empty Words On Trade."** The New York Times (3/8) editorializes that President Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs "will have little impact on China." Rather, their "primary victims...will be American allies like the European Union and South Korea." Trump's "approach should worry everyone concerned about a trade war or the health of the steel and aluminum industries."

**"The Trump Administration's Backward Attitude Toward Birth Control."** The New York Times (3/8) editorializes that the Trump Administration's recent announcement about funding for Title X, "a major family planning program," will "thwart" women's progress in America. The Times cites data showing a strong correlation between wage gains and access to birth control for women, and criticize the government's announcement that it "wants to fund 'innovative' services and emphasizes 'fertility awareness' approaches," rather than funding "reliable" contraceptive methods such as the intrauterine device (IUD). The Times calls the Administration's

priorities “backward and unscientific,” and argues that such decisions “will harm the health and self-determination of women, particularly the most vulnerable among them.”

### **Washington Post.**

***“Trump’s Belittling Of Allies Is Unworthy Of A US President.”*** The [Washington Post](#) (3/8) editorializes, “What’s ugliest here is Mr. Trump’s relentless and indiscriminate assault on long-standing allies, many of which, he said, ‘treat us the worst.’” While “Canada’s dependence on the US market is such that it’s possible Mr. Trump’s squeeze will have its purported intended effect of forcing Canada to give ground in the NAFTA talks,” the move will demonstrate “to the world the risks of befriending America, and of dealing openly and honestly with us, Mr. Trump’s pressure tactics could have unintended negative consequences for years to come.”

***“Is Putin’s Poison Squad Back In Britain?”*** A [Washington Post](#) (3/8) editorial says the attack on Sergei Skripal “could be a revenge assassination attempt, similar to those carried out in the past by Russia. If so, it would be another brazen crime by President Vladimir Putin that cannot be ignored.”

***“A Rarity For The NRA: Defeat.”*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/8) cites Florida lawmakers’ passage of a gun and school safety bill as proof that the “fearless student survivors of the Parkland, Fla., mass shooting are changing the debate about gun control. Proof lies in the Florida legislature’s vote for new firearms regulations and other gun-violence prevention measures.” The Post calls their “victory over the National Rifle Association in a state that has long done the gun-rights group’s bidding...nothing short of stunning” and expresses hope that “it will embolden efforts in other states – not to mention in Congress – for stricter gun-control laws that will help protect public safety.”

### **Wall Street Journal.**

***“Trump’s Hoover Temptation.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/8) denounces President Trump’s steel and aluminum tariffs as reminiscent of 1930s protectionism, which it says aggravated the Great Depression. The Journal also warns Trump that yesterday’s decision threatens to undo much of the success he has encountered on the economic front in his first year as president.

***“Xi Jinping’s Military Might.”*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/8) criticizes developments in China under President Xi Jinping, including a military buildup and the stoking of nationalist sentiment, as well as his recent constitutional changes to remain president for life. The Journal describes the trends, and argues that Xi’s actions may be inviting international conflict.

### **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

***Wall Street Journal:***

[Trump Agrees To Meet North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un](#)  
[Trump Signs Metals Tariffs Sparing Some Allies](#)  
[Mortgage Rates At A Four-Year High Threaten To Roil Housing](#)  
[After Addiction Comes Families' Second Blow: The Crushing Cost Of Rehab](#)

***New York Times:***

[Kim Offers Nuclear Talks; Trump Accepts](#)  
[Russia's Greatest Problem In Syria: Its Ally, President Assad](#)  
[GOP Is Spending Millions To Win A Vanishing Seat](#)  
[Trump Signs Tariff Orders, Ignoring Allies And His Party](#)

***Washington Post:***

[From US allies, Confusion, Anger And Frustration](#)  
[Pushback Begins As Tariffs Are Enacted](#)  
[Iranian Women Daring To Doff Their Headscarves](#)  
[From Scorn To Payday: Dominion's Big Play](#)  
[President's Bellicosity Secures A Diplomatic Coup – For Now](#)

***Financial Times:***

[Tillerson Tells Africa That China Finance Imperils Their Sovereignty](#)  
[Trump Adopts Steel Tariffs But Opens Door To Exemptions](#)  
[Geneva Glitz Cannot Hide Angst Over Electric Cars](#)  
[ECB Drops Pledge To Buy More Bonds If Needed](#)

***Washington Times:***

[Trump Agrees To Meet With North Korean Leader Kim Jong-Un In May](#)  
[Trump Spares NAFTA Partners From Tariffs On Steel, Aluminum](#)  
[States Rush Past Idling Congress To Enact Stricter Gun Laws](#)  
[Hollywood Condemns NRA While Dramatically Increasing Gun Violence In Entertainment](#)  
[Slovakian Journalists Pledge To Finish Slain Colleague's Story About Political Corruption](#)  
[Unlikely Leader Pulls Right-Wing Fringe Party To Italy's Political Power Center](#)

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Trump-Tariff Announcement; Trump-North Korea; North Carolina Police Beating; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Russia Probe; Florida School Shooting Investigation; UK-Poisoned Former Russian Spy; Arizona Police Collision; Missouri Police Shooting; Missing Girl Search; Mexico-Travel Alert; Viral Penguin Video.

**CBS:** Florida School Shooting Investigation; Trump-Tariff Announcement; Trump-North Korea; Tariff Announcement-Expert Comment; Severe Weather; Video Game-Violence; Mexico-Travel Alert; Teen Police Impostors; Spain Women's Strike; Star Wars Celeb; South Korea-DMZ K-

Pop.

**NBC:** Trump-Tariff Announcement; Tariff Announcement-Public Opinions; North Carolina Police Beating; Severe Weather; Cleveland Fertility Clinic Mismanagement; Florida School Shooting Investigation; Women For Congress; Equifax Security Breach Aftermath; Mexico-Travel Alert; Flying Car For Sale; Elderly Friends; Viral Penguin Video; Hospital Patient Couple.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

Tariff Announcement – 11 minutes, 5 seconds

Florida School Shooting Investigation – 6 minutes, 45 seconds

Severe Weather – 5 minutes, 50 seconds

Mexico-Travel Alert – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Trump-North Korea Invitation; Trump-Tariff Announcement; Russian Probe; Toys R Us Liquidation; Wall Street News.

**CBS:** Trump-North Korea Invitation; Trump-Tariff Announcement; Florida School Shooting Investigation; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Trump-North Korea Invitation; Trump-Tariff Announcement.

**NPR:** Trump-North Korea Invitation; Trump-Tariff Announcement; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public event scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers keynote remarks at an America First Policies "Tax Cuts to Put America First" event; participates in a campaign event for Congressman Steve Stivers of Ohio.

**US Senate:** 12:00 PM EESI co-hosts '2018 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook' briefing – '2018 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook' briefing hosted by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy in coordination with the House and Senate Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucuses. Executives from BCSE member companies and analysts from Bloomberg New Energy Finance discuss questions including 'What is the cost of energy for consumers and businesses, and how has this evolved?', 'Which energy technologies are the most competitive?', 'Are the recent changes in the U.S. energy mix structural, or temporary?', 'How is energy efficiency impacting U.S. economic competitiveness?', 'How are utilities and other companies investing in the future of U.S. energy infrastructure?', and 'How does the U.S. rank globally in terms of clean energy investment?' Location: Rm 2168, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC [www.eesi.org/](http://www.eesi.org/) <https://twitter.com/eesionline> #eesitalk

**US House:** 12:00 PM EESI co-hosts '2018 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook' briefing – '2018 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook' briefing



hosted by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy in coordination with the House and Senate Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucuses. Executives from BCSE member companies and analysts from Bloomberg New Energy Finance discuss questions including 'What is the cost of energy for consumers and businesses, and how has this evolved?', 'Which energy technologies are the most competitive?', 'Are the recent changes in the U.S. energy mix structural, or temporary?', 'How is energy efficiency impacting U.S. economic competitiveness?', 'How are utilities and other companies investing in the future of U.S. energy infrastructure?', and 'How does the U.S. rank globally in terms of clean energy investment?' Location: Rm 2168, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC [www.eesi.org/](http://www.eesi.org/) [#eesitalk](https://twitter.com/eesionline)

12:00 PM Congressional Internet Caucus Academy event on EU General Data Protection Regulation – Congressional Internet Caucus Academy hosts 'EU Privacy Countdown: What the GDPR Regulations Mean For Your Constituents' event, featuring Venable partner Kelly DeMarchis Bastide, Future of Privacy Forum Communications Director Melanie Bates, Delegation of the European Union to the United States Counsellor Aymeric Dupont, R Street Institute Director of Innovation Policy Mike Godwin, and Center for Democracy & Technology Policy Counsel Joe Jerome Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2237, Washington, DC [www.netcaucus.org](http://www.netcaucus.org) [#CICAGDPR](https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC)

12:30 PM House Armed Services Committee informational session for media on the NDAA – House Armed Services Committee 'NDAA 101' off-the-record informational session, designed to educate reporters about the National Defense Authorization Act, including information and tools to aid the press corps in covering the NDAA process, including an overview of how it is constructed and the process the Committee follows to pass it Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives.

**Other:** Vice President Mike Pence campaigns in Ohio for Republican Rep. Steve Stivers, who is running for re-election Location: Cleveland [www.stevestivers.com](http://www.stevestivers.com) <https://twitter.com/stevestivers>

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

*Jimmy Kimmel:* "South Korea officials delivered a letter from Kim Jong-Un, leader of North Korea, to promise to meet with Donald Trump to halt his missile test. So the North Korea leader extended an olive branch, which is all they have to eat there."

*Jimmy Kimmel:* " President Trump appreciated the briefing and said he would meet Kim Jong-Un by May. By May? He's not still going to be

President by May. This needs to happen by Wednesday. Imagine Kim Jong-Un meeting Donald Trump, the two worst haircuts in the world together.”

**Stephen Colbert:** “Today, Donald Trump made good on his promise and slapped import tariffs on steel and aluminum. Our allies have already begun threatening to retaliate. The EU says they’ll respond with tariffs on whiskey and peanut butter, which means it could get a lot pricier for Europeans to enjoy a PB&Jack.”

**James Corden:** “There’s more news out of the Russia investigation, for months the FBI has been questioning witnesses about possible collusion between the Trump Administration and Russia. And according to a new report Donald Trump has been asking the witnesses what questions came up in the interview. Trump’s basically that kid without didn’t study for a test and he’s like, ‘What did you get for number two? Same, same.’”

**Trevor Noah:** “The point is Trump is not a fan of video games, partly because the controllers are too big and also because he believes they inspire real world violence. ... The truth is many countries around the world have figured this out. The most effective and realistic way to limit gun violence is to regulate who has access to guns. While the President is talking about video games, interestingly enough, lawmakers in Florida have sided to take action.”

**Seth Meyers:** “The President of the United States got a restraining order against a porn star, which means we have to say goodbye to the old lowest point in American history. Goodbye, Garth Brooks’s rock and roll alter ego Chris Gaines!”

**Seth Meyers:** “Apparently Mueller is now homing in on Erik Prince, founder of the mercenary company Blackwater and an advisor to Trump’s transition team. Specifically, Mueller is now looking at a secret meeting Prince held with a Kremlin emissary on a remote island shortly after the election. ... Wait. You’re telling me a secret meeting on a remote island in the Indian Ocean between a mercenary and an agent of the Kremlin turned out to be suspicious? Where was the meeting? Inside a volcano the shape of a skull?”

**Conan O’Brien:** “There’s an attempt to silence porn star Stormy Daniels by President Trump’s lawyer. kind of sad that, in that sentence, the most

degrading job mentioned was President Trump's lawyer."

**Conan O'Brien:** "President Trump is planning on meeting about violence with the heads of the video game industry. However, some people worry that it's just a trap so that Trump can deport the Mario brothers."

**Jordan Klepper:** "Not obstruction for Trump to ask if the people investigating him were nice. He probably wanted to see if he should send Mueller a thank you gift like flowers or veiled threats or a pink slip. This wasn't witness tampering. It's just office small talk. Not Trump's fault that the FBI wants to interrogate everyone who works for him. He's just chatting."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-12T07:45:52-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 12, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-12T07:46:01-04:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 12, 2018 at 6:00:25 AM EDT  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 12, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018 6:00 AM EDT**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Associated Press: Zinke Signs Historic Blackfoot Water Rights Settlement.
- Missoulian (MT): Zinke Seeks Quick Restoration Of Sperry Chalet.
- CNN: White House Scolds Cabinet Officials After Embarrassing Ethics Reports.
- New York Times: In Decline, Offshore Drillers Find A Champion In The Trump Administration.
- Reuters: New York Governor Requests To Exclude State From Offshore Drilling Program.
- E&E Publishing: Research Lacking On Fair Return From Reduced Royalty Rate.
- Reuters: U.S. Miners Seek Reversal Of Uranium Mining Ban Near Grand Canyon.
- Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal: Trump Administration Opens Millions Of Acres Of California Desert To Mining.
- The Guardian (UK): Trump Official Under Fire After Granting Broad Access To Mining And Oil Firms.
- Huffington Post: Interior Officials Are Citing Coal Execs And Crank Bloggers To Defend Climate Stances.
- Western Journal: Gov't Worker Stole 35 Sick Days Using Horrible Excuse, Then Feds Refuse To Prosecute.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Project Behind Schedule: New High School To Be Ready By 2018-19 School Year.
- Ponca Tribe Advances Casino Plans Amid Legal Dispute.
- 100 Years Documentary On Elouise Cobell Coming To PBS.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Washington Post: Almost 100,000 Comments Missing From Federal Sage Grouse Conservation Report.
- Denver Post: Federal Plan To Auction Mineral Rights Near Great Sands Dunes National Park Opposed.
- Nevada Independent: As Feds Withhold Money For Prison-based Program, Nevada BLM Looking To More Expensive Options For Sagebrush Restoration.
- Associated Press: Nails Removed From Popular E. Idaho Off-Road Recreation Area.
- Taos (NM) News: Taos BLM Office Gets 2-Month Leader.

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Offshore Drilling Worth \$590 Billion In Economic Boom, Oil Industry Says.
- Outlook Mixed As Federal Government Prepares For Gulf Offshore Oil Auction, Billed As Largest In History.
- Oil Drilling Could Hurt Florida Economy, Environmental Report Says.

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- BuRec Competition Targets Water Pipeline Performance Improvement.
- Klamath Basin Bracing For Drought.
- Concerns About High Water Releases From Yellowtail Dam Into Bighorn River Prompt Meeting.

### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

- Interior Department-funded Study Calls For Standards For Offshore Drilling Equipment.
- Burial Of Subsea Well Led To Oil Spill.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Panama City (FL) News Herald: Dunn Pushes To Not List PC Crayfish.
- Miami Herald: Florida And U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Resolve Stand-off Over Everglades Refuge.
- North Jersey (NJ) Media Group: Feds Seek Compensation For Impact Of DuPont Pollution In Pompton Lakes.
- Associated Press: Montana Mining Companies Work To Avoid Another Geese Die-Off.
- USA Today: Bitter Florida Cold Contributes To 166 Manatee Deaths This Year, A Record Pace.

### **National Park Service**

- Bangor (ME) Daily News: Conservation Group On Trump National Parks Fix Plan: Show Us The Money.
- New York Daily News: Advocacy Group Requests Details On 'Talent Show' Pushing Florida Shooting Survivors' Rally Out Of National Mall.
- CNBC: A Look Inside St. Louis Gateway Arch's \$380 Million Makeover.
- Peoria (IL) Journal Star: Morton Business Building Chimes For Flight 93 Memorial Tower.
- Associated Press: More Than 550 Yellowstone Bison Removed So Far This Winter.

- Associated Press: National Park Service Sets Meeting On Climbing Rules.
- Daily Inter Lake (MT): Glacier Park Superintendent Honored By Public Lands Alliance.
- Associated Press: Preservation Group Acquires Chacoan-Era Site In New Mexico.

#### **Insular And International Affairs**

- Interior Announces \$460,900 For Prior Service Trust Fund.
- High Schools, Middle Schools Learn Conservation.
- EU Set To Add Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands To Tax Haven Blacklist.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- Get The New U.S. Policy On Elephant Trophies Exactly Right.
- Gasson: Interior Sec. Zinke Should Honor The Deal On Sage Grouse.
- Americans Won't Stand For Attacks On Public Lands.
- Additional Reading.

#### **Top National News**

- CBS: Administration: No Concessions To North Korea In Exchange For Talks.
- Reuters: White House Says US Is Seeking "Concrete Actions" From North Korea Before Trump-Kim Summit.
- New York Times: Trump Stumps For Saccone In Pennsylvania.
- Reuters: Five Cabinet Secretaries To Testify Before Senate Committee To Promote Infrastructure Plan.
- Wall Street Journal: Labor Department: US Added 313,000 Jobs In February.

#### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "‘Never Again’ Holocaust Museum Tells Burmese Leader."
- Washington Post.
  - "The US Separates A Mother And Daughter Fleeing Violence In Congo."
  - "There's A Smart Way To Pay For Infrastructure. Trump Can Tell Congress How."
  - "Erodgan Is Transforming Turkey Into A Totalitarian Prison."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Cures Welcome At FDA."
  - "A Not So Liddell Problem."
  - "A Political Speech Crackdown."

#### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

#### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

#### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

#### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Zinke Signs Historic Blackfoot Water Rights Settlement.**

The [AP](#) (3/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "transferred

the first \$800,000 of what is expected to be \$470 million agreement for water-related projects on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation." The funds are "part of a compact that quantifies the tribe's water rights and confirms its jurisdiction over those rights on the reservation." Blackfeet Tribal Business Council Chairman Harry Barnes "told Zinke that the compact will have a tremendous impact on the Blackfeet people for years to come."

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/9, Byron) reports that "Zinke noted that Friday's signing was the culmination of many years of work." He said, "We started this even before I was a state senator. Then, they were battling in the halls of Congress, and now, as Secretary of the Interior, it is nice to see progress being done." Zinke added, "There are treaty obligations Interior will honor, and this represents that great beginning."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (3/9). Local TV coverage was provided by [KBZK-TV](#) Butte, MT (3/9).

### **Zinke Seeks Quick Restoration Of Sperry Chalet.**

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/10, Byron) reports that "rebuilding Sperry Chalet 'as expeditiously as they can,' under budget and ahead of schedule, is a commitment made by Secretary of State Ryan Zinke Saturday after a meeting with Glacier Superintendent Jeff Mow and Doug Mitchell, executive director of Glacier National Park Conservancy." During a press conference Saturday, "Zinke said public comments overwhelmingly support rebuilding the popular backcountry chalet's dormitory, burned in last summer's Sprague Fire, as close as possible to its original state while making some upgrades." Zinke "proposes using a mix of public and private dollars to complete the work, adding that he is prepared to commit "whatever it takes" in federal funding to restore the structure."

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (3/10, Reilly) reports that Zinke said that "all of us are committed to rebuild her better than what it was before, and we're going to do it under budget, ahead of schedule."

Local TV coverage was provided by [KECI-TV](#) Missoula, MT (3/10).

### **White House Scolds Cabinet Officials After Embarrassing Ethics Reports.**

The White House last month held private meetings with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt "to scold them for embarrassing stories about questionable ethical behavior at their respective agencies, sources familiar with the sessions tell" [CNN](#) (3/9, Alesci), which reports "the meetings, held at chief of staff John Kelly's request, were intended to provide 'a clear message that optics matter,' the sources said." Spokespeople for the agencies either denied the report or refused to comment.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Examiner](#) (3/10, Quinn).

***Democrat Mocks Zinke's \$139K Doors By Asking For Game Of Thrones Office Remodel.*** The Hill (3/9, Bowden) reports that Rep. Ted Lieu "mocked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke late Thursday night over reports that the Trump Cabinet secretary spent \$139,000 of taxpayer money upgrading the doors to his office." In a tweet, Lieu asked House Speaker Paul Ryan "for his own 'Game of Thrones'-style office upgrades, before remarking that he was joking as Lieu is not a member of Trump's Cabinet."

NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 6, 2:05, Holt) reported a spokesperson insists the doors are "part of the decade-long modernization" of the office, and "was requested by career facilities and security officials."

Also reporting are USA Today (3/9, Jansen), USA Today (3/9), Business Insider (3/9, Weiss), CNBC (3/9, Jansen), Newsweek (3/9, Lanktree), and Vice (3/9, Lubben).

***Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Accused Of Mixing Politics With Government Business.*** USA Today (3/11, Collins) reports that government watchdog groups and two congressional Democrats say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recent visit to "a small Pennsylvania town bearing a huge ceremonial check and the promise of millions of dollars to clean up abandoned coal mine lands" seemed "designed to benefit the GOP candidate in a special congressional election that Republicans are in danger of losing on Tuesday." The trip, critics say, "appears to be part of a pattern in which Zinke mixes politics with his official business as a cabinet secretary." Democratic Reps. Raul Grijalva and Donald McEachin have written "to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel and asked for an investigation into whether Zinke's trip was a violation of the Hatch Act."

### **In Decline, Offshore Drillers Find A Champion In The Trump Administration.**

In a more than 4,500-word front-page article, the New York Times (3/10, A1, Lipton) concedes "attention has been focused on President Trump's disputed decision in January to reverse drilling restrictions in nearly all United States coastal waters," but the Administration is also seeking to reverse "Obama-era regulations in the Gulf." According to the Times, "those rules include safety measures put in place after the explosion and sinking of the Deepwater Horizon rig in 2010, a disaster that killed 11 people and resulted in the largest marine oil spill in drilling history." The Times adds that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle has been an "enthusiastic ally" to "smaller oil and gas companies, many backed by Wall Street and private equity firms," which are lobbying for the changes. An analysis of federal inspection data revealed several of them "had been cited for workplace safety violations in recent years at a rate much higher than the industry average."

***Oil Industry Falls Out Of Love With Trump.*** Politico (3/10, Lefebvre, Wolff) reports "the administration's 25 percent steel tariff, hostility toward NAFTA and fumbled efforts to lift restrictions on drilling are worrying [energy] executives, who have praised the president's war on regulations



but loathe uncertainty and nationalistic trade policies." According to Politico, the tariff "was a source of angst at a major energy industry conference this week in Houston," so Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visited the conference in a bid "to calm the sector's nerves" as they "reiterated the administration's support for higher oil and gas production." However, Politico says Perry "roiled the energy world late last year with a now-jettisoned plan to prop up struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants" while "Zinke's shifting plans on opening federal waters for drilling, controversial moves to shrink the size of national monuments and attempts to ease restrictions on land use in Western states have drawn sharp legal challenges – making companies wary of venturing into new areas."

### **New York Governor Requests To Exclude State From Offshore Drilling Program.**

Reuters (3/9, Nair, Kumar, Kearney) reports New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Friday that he has asked the Department of the Interior to exclude New York from the agency's Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, citing concerns over environmental impact and the need to move towards cleaner energy sources. Cuomo stated that New York, "as the number three ocean economy in the nation...stands to lose nearly 320,000 jobs and billions of dollars generated through tourism and fishing industries should the exclusion not be granted."

The Hill (3/9, Green) reports Cuomo stated, "Offshore drilling is a really really dumb idea. That's my professional comment. ... Now instead of protecting our waters from another oil spill like the one that devastated the Gulf, this new federal plan only increases the chances of another disaster taking place." He "said the plan would move the country 'backwards' in only negative ways."

The Washington Examiner (3/9, Siegel) reports New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said, "The Trump administration's plan to turn over New York's coast to Big Oil threatens our environment and our economy, and I stand ready to use the full power of my office to fight back if the administration won't listen to New Yorkers' opposition. ... The Trump administration must follow the law and eliminate New York's coastal waters from its senseless and dangerous drilling plan. If the administration refuses, I will act to ensure our state's economy, environment, and natural resources are protected."

The AP (3/9) reports former Vice President Al Gore was present at the event where Cuomo made the announcement.

Additional coverage was provided by Crain's New York Business (3/9, Bredderman).

### **Research Lacking On Fair Return From Reduced Royalty Rate.**

E&E Publishing (3/8, King) reports the Interior Department's royalty committee that recently recommended lowering royalty rates for

deepwater tracts "leaned heavily on research produced close to a decade ago." The committee referenced "three studies in its defense of a reduction. Two were published during the Obama administration and one was released in January." BOEM acting Director Walter Cruickshank said, "From what I've seen from the Royalty Policy Committee, their recommendations were not the result of that kind of rigorous analysis." The oldest report was published in 2009 and "investigated the 'offsetting' effect of raising and lowering royalty rates." The most recent report, published by Wood Mackenzie and referenced by the committee, said, "What is still especially relevant to move projects forward in deepwater [Gulf of Mexico] are potential policy incentives specific to these ultra-high-pressure developments." The report's author, William Turner, suggested "he had recommended targeted stimulus – not blanket incentives for operations across the Gulf." Turner said, "When I saw that I was a little shocked."

### **U.S. Miners Seek Reversal Of Uranium Mining Ban Near Grand Canyon.**

Reuters (3/10, Gardner) reports that the National Mining Association (NMA) and the American Exploration and Mining Association filed petitions with the Supreme Court last Friday "asking the court to reverse the Obama administration's 2012 ban on new uranium mining claims on more than 1 million acres of public land adjacent to the canyon." NMA Spokesman Luke Popovich is quoted saying, "There is scant evidence that uranium mining outside the park boundaries poses any threat to either the environment or visitor experience."

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (3/9) and The Guardian (UK) (3/10, Walters, Agencies).

### **Trump Administration Opens Millions Of Acres Of California Desert To Mining.**

The Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (3/11, Roth) reports that the Interior Department said last week "it would allow mining on 1.3 million acres, or more than 2,000 square miles, across the California desert, reversing an Obama-era effort to protect those lands." The decision follows the an announcement "that it would reconsider an Obama-era plan to protect millions of acres of public land in the California desert." Conservationists see Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "decision to allow mining on some of those lands as a sign the Trump administration may unwind the entire desert plan, throwing the future of the region's treasured landscapes and fragile ecosystems into doubt."

Additional coverage was provided by KQED-FM San Francisco (3/10, Guerin).

### **Trump Official Under Fire After Granting Broad Access To Mining And Oil Firms.**

The Guardian (UK) (3/9, Tobias) reports that "a key Trump administration official scheduled roughly twice as many meetings with mining and fossil-fuel representatives as with environmental groups, public records requests have revealed." Furthermore, "some of the firms she met later benefited directly from administration decisions that weakened wilderness and wildlife protections." According to the article, "the official work calendar" of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's senior adviser Kathleen Benedetto "indicates the remarkable access that the extractive industries have to the Trump administration."

### **Interior Officials Are Citing Coal Execs And Crank Bloggers To Defend Climate Stances.**

The Huffington Post (3/9, Kaufman, D'Angelo) reports that top officials at the Interior Department "cited former coal executives and crank bloggers to challenge the overwhelming evidence of the threat posed by man-made climate change, according to department emails released through a Freedom of Information Act request by former Interior scientist Joel Clement." On Sept. 26, Indur Goklany, a science and technology policy analyst at the Interior Department, "cited a study briefing from a group called CO2Science, highlighting a selective finding that some plankton communities may benefit from increased levels of carbon dioxide, which causes the oceans to acidify." CO2Science is "the shortened nickname for the Arizona-based Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, an oil-funded think tank run by former Peabody Energy executive Craig Idso."

Additional coverage was provided by The Hill (3/10, Thomsen) and the Washington Post (3/9, Eilperin, Grandoni).

### **Gov't Worker Stole 35 Sick Days Using Horrible Excuse, Then Feds Refuse To Prosecute.**

The Western Journal (3/11, Bastasch) reports that "an Interior Department employee lied about having cancer and used forged doctors' notes to get 256 hours of sick leave, according to an inspector general report." The Interior Department's Office of Inspector General "confirmed the employee 'lied about her cancer diagnosis, forged medical records, falsified documents, and abused her own sick leave and leave donated by coworkers.'" According to the article, "the unnamed female employee, who worked in the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST), left the Interior Department before investigators could issue a report."

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Project Behind Schedule: New High School To Be Ready By 2018-19 School Year.**

The Bemidji (MN) Pioneer (3/9, Bowen) reports that "Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school and the Bureau of Indian Affairs were on track to replace a shoddy, subpar high school building with a new one built in sections by Arizona-

based Modular Solutions, which started the project last spring." That plan had a planned completion date "in late fall or early winter 2017." However, "that construction is now months behind schedule, according to interviews with school and bureau staffers." Superintendent Mary Trapp said, "When we have the completion date from BIA, then we will know for sure when we can start transferring staff and furniture into the building. We expect students will enter in September into the new building and have classes that first week in the new building."

### **Ponca Tribe Advances Casino Plans Amid Legal Dispute.**

The AP (3/10, Hendee) reports that "the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska continues to edge toward plans to open a casino in Carter Lake, despite a legal challenge from the City of Council Bluffs." Larry Wright Jr., chairman of the tribe, "said tribal leaders are working behind the scenes to keep tribal members informed of proposed casino details." According to the article, "after a decade of lawsuits, appeals and legal reviews, the National Indian Gaming Commission said in November that the tribe can put a casino on 5 acres of land it owns in Carter Lake." However, "in December, Council Bluffs City Attorney Richard Wade filed a complaint in U.S. District Court seeking a ruling that the tribe does not qualify to use its Carter Lake property for a casino."

### **100 Years Documentary On Elouise Cobell Coming To PBS.**

Indian Country (3/10, Schilling) reports that "the award-winning documentary 100 Years is coming to PBS': America Reframed on March 13th." The documentary is "based on the story of Elouise Cobell (Blackfeet) who fought a 30-year battle against the U.S. Government for its gross mismanagement of funds impacting more than 300,000 Native individuals."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Almost 100,000 Comments Missing From Federal Sage Grouse Conservation Report.**

The Washington Post (3/9, Grandoni) reports that environmentalists say that "roughly 267,000 individuals submitted comments to the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management at the behest of about 20 environmental groups" on proposed changes to the conservation plan to protect the greater sage grouse. However, the Bureau of Land Management "tallied far fewer comments received for its 'scoping' report: About 170,000 individuals submitted comments, according to a memorandum by David Bernhardt, the No. 2 top official at the department, sent to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." The discrepancy left green groups "scrambling to figure out why their comments did not show up in the public record." Phil Hanceford, conservation director of the Wilderness Society, called the missing comments "a glaring reminder that BLM has some pretty serious transparency issues."

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/11, Richards) reports that "the Bureau of Land Management confirmed claims from environmental groups that many of their public comments were not included in a recent report on federal plans to revise sage grouse management in the West." The BLM "couldn't confirm the number of missing submissions, but said it was looking into the source of the mistake." Don Smurthwaite, spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management, said, "Apparently, they were never received by BLM and that's why they did not show up in the final scoping report. Just how many we're missing is unknown. You can't count what you didn't receive."

### **Federal Plan To Auction Mineral Rights Near Great Sands Dunes National Park Opposed.**

The [Denver Post](#) (3/9, Osher) reports that environmentalists are opposing the Bureau of Land Management's plans "to auction off mineral rights on 18,000 acres near Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve to oil and gas drillers." They claim "drilling on those parcels will disrupt fragile ecosystems, harm tourism and put wildlife species at risk." The BLM on March 22 will release an environmental assessment of the proposal and a 15-day public comment period will then open.

### **As Feds Withhold Money For Prison-based Program, Nevada BLM Looking To More Expensive Options For Sagebrush Restoration.**

The [Nevada Independent](#) (3/11, Rindels) reports that "Nevada BLM offices expect to scale back their plans to replant sagebrush in fire-damaged land as federal funding to grow seedlings in prisons is held up without clear explanation." A BLM Nevada spokesman "said Thursday that the Carson, Winnemucca and Elko districts had projects lined up in expectation of receiving 300,000 plants this fall from the Sagebrush in Prisons program, run by the Oregon-based Institute for Applied Ecology." However, "the \$250,000 the program was expecting from the federal government to has not been released, forcing the institute to scramble for private donations and grant funding."

### **Nails Removed From Popular E. Idaho Off-Road Recreation Area.**

The [AP](#) (3/10) reports that "more than 60 pounds of nails have been removed from a popular off-road recreation area in eastern Idaho." According to Bureau of Land Management Recreation Planner Ben Cisna, "the thousands of nails came from pallet burning and other illegal activities at the St. Anthony Sand Dunes."

### **Taos BLM Office Gets 2-Month Leader.**

The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (3/9, Hooks) reports that Pamela Mathis has been "given a 60-day assignment" as the acting field manager of the Taos Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management Mathis is "part of a team to make the BLM's internal database of the most up-to-date policies and

procedures more user-friendly and searchable.”

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **Offshore Drilling Worth \$590 Billion In Economic Boom, Oil Industry Says.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/9, Siegel) reports that “the oil and natural gas industry on Friday urged Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to maintain his offshore drilling plan and open up federal waters from coast to coast, saying it would bring in almost \$600 billion for the economy.” The American Petroleum Institute “released four studies commissioned by the oil industry that found the offshore drilling proposal could contribute up to \$590 billion to the U.S. economy within two decades.” Erik Milito, API’s director of upstream and industry operations, said, “Our offshore is the backbone of oil and gas production. For us to maintain that, we need to explore and develop resources from new areas.”

### **Outlook Mixed As Federal Government Prepares For Gulf Offshore Oil Auction, Billed As Largest In History.**

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (3/10, Stole) reports large “swaths of the Gulf of Mexico will go on the auction block for offshore oil and gas drilling in less than two weeks,” but “the 77-million-acre sale,” called “the largest in the country’s history, may not shake off the offshore oil industry’s three-year slump.” Oil industry analysts believe that “with oil prices hanging below the \$65-per-barrel mark and plenty of appealing prospects in the shale fields of Texas and the Dakotas...interest in this round of lease sales won’t differ dramatically from a similar auction in August that yielded disappointing results.” The Advocate adds that in an attempt to “juice interest from oil companies in new offshore drilling ventures, the Trump administration cut the royalty rate the federal government will charge on some of the shallow-water tracts to 12.5 percent for both the August and upcoming March 21 sales.”

### **Oil Drilling Could Hurt Florida Economy, Environmental Report Says.**

[Florida Today](#) (3/8, Waymer) reports that an economic analysis from the nonprofit Oceana claims that “oil drilling along Florida’s coast could put at risk almost 610,000 jobs and \$37.4 billion in economic activity.” The report was countered by industry officials like American Petroleum Institute spokeswoman Cornelia Horner, who said, “It’s important for economic studies to be peer-reviewed and based on science and factual data.” Horner said that energy exploration and development has co-existed alongside commercial fishing, seafood processors, tourism, and military activities for decades in the Gulf of Mexico, and that “in many cases energy development has stimulated and bolstered investments, increased higher-paying jobs, and supported retail and tourism in coastal towns along the Gulf.” Based on historical data, Horner concluded more drilling would likely “encourage economic growth, spur manufacturing and investment, create

thousands of additional U.S. jobs, and strengthen our national security.”

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **BuRec Competition Targets Water Pipeline Performance Improvement.**

The [Concrete Products](#) (3/9) reports that “with a purse up to \$75,000 divided among five finalists, the Bureau of Reclamation has launched a two-stage competition seeking innovative methods to detect leaks and flaws in buried pipelines – primarily 48-in. and larger prestressed concrete cylinder or steel pipe – that convey water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses.” The competition will “consist of a theoretical challenge requiring a written proposal, followed by proof-of-concept in a laboratory-scale demonstration.”

### **Klamath Basin Bracing For Drought.**

[KOB-TV Medford, OR](#) (3/9, Ahrens) reports that “over 150 irrigators met at the Klamath County Fairgrounds Friday afternoon to hear from federal officials about the upcoming water year.” Rep. Greg Walden “announced at a separate meeting that he’s seeking disaster assistance as part of a short term solution.” He said, “Hopefully, we’ll be able to get funding and new authority in place to help for both groundwater pumping, and for other measures to get us through this drought.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/11, Dillemoth) and the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/9, Dillemoth).

### **Concerns About High Water Releases From Yellowtail Dam Into Bighorn River Prompt Meeting.**

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/9, French) reports that “concerns about high water releases from Yellowtail Dam into the Bighorn River has prompted the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission to hold a teleconference meeting on Monday, March 12, at 1 p.m.” Commissioner Shane Colton “called for the meeting to ask the group to endorse a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation, which manages the dam, asking officials to make adjustments to water releases now to avoid larger, damaging flows later that scour the banks and displace fish at an important trout fishing destination.”

## **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

---

### **Interior Department-funded Study Calls For Standards For Offshore Drilling Equipment.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/9, Siciliano) reports an Interior Department-funded report “is recommending that the agency work closely with the oil industry to establish standards to prevent spills from bolt failures on undersea safety equipment used in deepwater drilling.” The report, which

was issued on Friday by the National Academies of Sciences, "rais[es] concerns about the potential for oil spills that could result from bolt failures on such equipment as blowout preventers." A summary of the report said, "No major oil spills have resulted from the failure of a bolt or fastener, but there have been minor oil releases and near misses caused by unexpected bolt failures."

Additional coverage was provided by [Marine Link](#) (3/10, Fonseca).

### **Burial Of Subsea Well Led To Oil Spill.**

[Maritime Executive](#) (3/9) reported the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement "released its final report on the 2016 leak at Shell's Glider field in the Gulf of Mexico" and concluded that the spill "resulted from a fracture in a load limiting joint on the field's well #4 jumper." The fracture was caused by "forces resulting from the burial of the jumper, which added stresses that were not accounted for in its original design." In the future, the BSEE recommended "that operator training should be improved, and that regulators should be notified of environmental changes that affect subsea production systems (for example, when jumpers are buried by drilling activity)." The BSEE also "called for technical research into improved methods of subsea leak detection."

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

#### **Dunn Pushes To Not List PC Crayfish.**

The [Panama City \(FL\) News Herald](#) (3/11, Landeck) reports that "claiming the the threat to the Panama City crayfish has been 'grossly overstated,' Congressman Neal Dunn has added his voice to those opposing listing the crustacean under the Endangered Species Act." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on March 1, "Dunn asked him to prevent the crayfish – which is found only in Bay County – from being listed." Dunn "questioned the supporting science used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." He wrote, "Working under threat of further litigation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) hastily proposed a rule that erroneously used survey data on the presence of crayfish at a particular location as a substitute for scientific assessment of population size."

#### **Florida And U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Resolve Stand-off Over Everglades Refuge.**

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/9, Staletovich) reports that "over the last month, the South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, frequently at odds over protecting endangered species and water management, solved two thorny problems: a land swap the district needed to expand a marsh to clean water and and standoff over the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge." On Thursday, the district "agreed to renew a 20-year refuge lease after finalizing the land swap, ending the two-year old dispute." The article notes that "the refuge lease hinges on the Service's efforts to control the fern and other invasive plants rather than



performance measures included in the former lease." It adds that "for every year the Service spends above a minimum \$1.25 million, the lease gets extended a year." However, "if spending falls short, a year is subtracted, meaning the lease could end after 10 years."

### **Feds Seek Compensation For Impact Of DuPont Pollution In Pompton Lakes.**

The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (3/9, O'Neill) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "trying to put a financial price tag on the damage DuPont pollution has caused to fish, birds, animals and plants in Pompton Lakes, an effort that began three years ago to determine how badly those natural resources have been affected." Melissa Foster, a Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, said, "We've mostly been taking biological samples of fish, birds and invertebrates, looking mostly at organisms living in or adjacent to the water." Once the FWS "finishes analyzing the data it has collected, it will develop an assessment plan that outlines the agency's next steps, including any studies to answer specific questions about the damage, Foster said."

### **Montana Mining Companies Work To Avoid Another Geese Die-Off.**

The [AP](#) (3/11) reports that "mining companies hope to prevent another massive die-off of geese in the polluted waters of an old open-pit copper mine in Montana." Bird experts are concerned "that with the annual northward migration of geese underway, birds might again be tempted to rest in the water in Berkeley Pit in Butte." The article notes that "in November 2016, an estimated 3,000 snow geese died when they landed in the acidic, metal-laden water." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "determined they were killed by severe internal tissue damage that appeared to have been caused by a corrosive substance."

### **Bitter Florida Cold Contributes To 166 Manatee Deaths This Year, A Record Pace.**

[USA Today](#) (3/10, Waymer, Today) reports that "Florida is on pace for another cold, harsh record year for manatee deaths, according to an environmental watchdog group." According to state data through March 2, "already, 166 manatees have died statewide." Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility Executive Director Jeff Ruch said, "Florida's manatees are one big freeze away from an ecological disaster and need more, not less, protection."

### **National Park Service**

---

### **Conservation Group On Trump National Parks Fix Plan: Show Us The Money.**

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/11, Sambides) reports that the National Parks Conservation Association "wants to know where the money that a

bipartisan U.S. Senate coalition, including Maine Sen. Angus King, proposes to use to eliminate an \$11.93 billion National Park Service maintenance deficit will originate." The organization is "waiting for details on how the initiative unveiled last week will generate as much as \$18 billion to eliminate the maintenance backlog at national parks, spokeswoman Emily Douce said." According to Douce, "the association is concerned that Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's pledge to increase energy production on federal lands will bleed into the revenue created for the restoration fund."

### **Advocacy Group Requests Details On 'Talent Show' Pushing Florida Shooting Survivors' Rally Out Of National Mall.**

The New York Daily News (3/9, Slattery) reports that "advocates want the National Parks Service to cough up more information on the mysterious 'talent show' forcing a planned rally against mass shootings to relocate." The non-profit group Public Citizen has "filed a Freedom of Information Act request asking for details about the group blocking the student-led effort from the National Mall." The New York Daily News (3/9, Cerullo) reports that "Public Citizen requested the complete, unredacted permit application for the student 'talent show' that is set to take place on the National Mall on March 25, with a rain date of March 24 – the same day as the march." The group "also requests correspondence between the National Park Service and the mystery group concerning the conflicting event."

### **A Look Inside St. Louis Gateway Arch's \$380 Million Makeover.**

CNBC (3/8, Baskas) reports that "on July 3, the new museum at St. Louis' iconic Gateway Arch will open." According to the article, "after \$380 million worth of upgrades, the park land around the monument and the underground museum below it are being readied for visitors." City officials foresee a significant increase in attendance at Gateway Arch National Park "once the museum and visitor center re-open."

### **Morton Business Building Chimes For Flight 93 Memorial Tower.**

The Peoria (IL) Journal Star (3/11, Stein) reports that a company is manufacturing 40 wind chimes for the Tower of Voices monument, which "will tower over the entrance to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, Pa." Steve Clark, superintendent of the Flight 93 memorial, said, "There are no other chime structures like (the Tower of Voices) in the world." The 40 wind chimes Fugate Inc. is "building represent the 40 passengers and crew members who fought with terrorists who hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001, with the intention of crashing the plane into the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C."

### **More Than 550 Yellowstone Bison Removed So Far This Winter.**

The AP (3/11) reports that "wildlife officials say more than 550 Yellowstone National Park bison have been removed so far this winter in the annual

program to limit the herd size." As of Sunday, "328 animals have been shipped to slaughter and hunters have killed 234." According to the article, "this year's goal is to remove 600 to 900 bison."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (3/11, Wright).

### **National Park Service Sets Meeting On Climbing Rules.**

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that the National Park Service has set a meeting for Friday "on rules for climbing activities at New River Gorge National River and Gauley River National Recreation Area."

### **Glacier Park Superintendent Honored By Public Lands Alliance.**

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (3/11) reports that Glacier National Park Superintendent Jeff Mow has "received an award for outstanding stewardship of public lands." The Public Lands Alliance's Agency Leadership Award "recognizes a public land management agency employee for outstanding accomplishments in championing, cultivating and leading partnerships." In a press release, the Glacier National Park Conservancy commended Mow for placing "an emphasis on the importance of community and nonprofit partner collaboration in the face of increasing park visitation, invasive species, dwindling budgets and climate change."

### **Preservation Group Acquires Chacoan-Era Site In New Mexico.**

The [AP](#) (3/11) reports that "a national nonprofit that focuses on the preservation of archaeological sites is ensuring that property in northwestern New Mexico is believed to be part of the system that once linked Chaco Canyon's ancient civilization remains intact." The site, "located above Aztec Ruins National Monument, was donated to the Archaeological Conservancy by Charley and Kim Dein and has been named the Dein Ruin." The Archaeological Conservancy "in the past has donated preserves to be incorporated into National Park Service properties, including into Chaco Culture National Historical Park." However, Archaeological Conservancy Southwest Regional Director Jim Walker "said there are no plans to donate the Dein Ruin to Aztec Ruins National Monument."

## **Insular And International Affairs**

---

### **Interior Announces \$460,900 For Prior Service Trust Fund.**

[Marianas Variety](#) (3/12) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech has "authorized a payment of \$460,900 in FY 2018 funding for the Prior Service Trust Fund or PSTF Administration which distributes benefits to former employees of the post-World War II, U.S.-administered, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands or TTPI in the Western Pacific." Domenech said, "The United States continues to meet its commitment to 894 former employees for their prior service

under U.S. administration in the larger Micronesia region. People in the Northern Mariana Islands, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau rely on these payments for themselves and their families to meet every-day, practical needs.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (3/12).

### **High Schools, Middle Schools Learn Conservation.**

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (3/12) reports that the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance “hosted a coral reef conservation workshop this past weekend for teachers and students from various high schools and middle schools on island as part of their ‘Schools for Environmental Conservation’ program.” Participants attended workshops and “were treated to a field trip to Managaha Island to join a CNMI Snorkels event, a hands-on opportunity where they learned about the marine ecosystem while enjoying the island’s pristine waters.” The article notes that “all these activities are completely funded by MINA with support from the Coral Reef Initiative/Natural Resources Program in the Office of Insular Affairs.”

### **EU Set To Add Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands To Tax Haven Blacklist.**

According to a March 8 document prepared by European Union officials and reviewed by [Reuters](#) (3/9, Guarascio), the EU is poised to add the Bahamas, the US Virgin Islands, and Saint Kitts and Nevis to its tax haven blacklist, bringing the total number of nations on the list to nine. EU finance ministers are expected to endorse the move on Tuesday during a regular monthly meeting. According to the document, the ministers “are also expected to delist Bahrain, the Marshall Islands and Saint Lucia,” and add the “British Virgin Islands, Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda to a so-called grey list of jurisdictions which do not respect EU anti-tax avoidance standards but have committed to change their practices.” Reuters says that “Panama’s delisting caused a particular outcry,” and EU experts’ proposed delisting of Bahrain, the Marshall Islands, and Saint Lucia “attracted criticism from anti-corruption activists who called for disclosure of the commitments made by the delisted jurisdictions.”

### **Opinion Pieces**

---

#### **Get The New U.S. Policy On Elephant Trophies Exactly Right.**

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9) questions “the Interior Department’s sudden re-reversal on importing elephant trophies.” A new policy of evaluating trophy hunting on a case-by-case basis “could make sense: Hunters interested in importing a trophy should have to document that they got it from a reputable reserve, no matter where it was located.” However, the Trump Administration “offered unsettlingly few details about how case-by-case decisions would be made, and it has earned no trust on conservation”

Additional commentary on trophy hunting appeared in the [Chicago](#)

Tribune (3/7) and the New York Daily News (3/9, Winders).

### **Gasson: Interior Sec. Zinke Should Honor The Deal On Sage Grouse.**

In an op-ed for the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/10, Gasson), wildlife conservationist Walt Gasson lauds the sage grouse conservation plan as a "compromise" that was "responsible stewardship of our public lands that allowed for energy development while also taking into account the importance of wildlife and wildlife habitat." But now, "a bunch of folks who weren't involved in the hard work of coming up with the deal want to revisit it." Gasson decries "the heavy hand of big government" that is "blocking the path forward" for sage grouse, "while continuing hunting, grazing and drilling on sagebrush lands."

### **Americans Won't Stand For Attacks On Public Lands.**

In an op-ed for the Las Vegas Sun (3/11, Douglas), Fawn Douglas, a Paiute artist and Native American activist, writes that indigenous people are standing up to defend public lands from "constant" attacks. Douglas asserts that "any elected official who claims to value indigenous people must listen and respect what we are asking for: for these special places to be preserved."

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Secretary Of Interior Zinke Attacks America's Wilderness.* Juneau (AK) Empire (3/9, Proescholdt).
- *Secretary Zinke, What About Us?* Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (3/10).
- *Finding Common Ground: Lessons Of The Roan.* Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (3/11, Bloodworth).
- *Editorial-drilling-ban-trump-Florida.* Pensacola (FL) News Journal (3/10).
- *Panhandle At Risk For BP-style Blowout: Guestview.* Pensacola (FL) News Journal (3/11, Graham, Beinecke).
- *Offshore Oil Drilling Threatens Our Coastal Economies And Military Operations.* The Voice Of San Diego (3/9, West)
- *Moving BLM Out West A Good Idea.* Coos Bay (OR) World (3/9).
- *Commentary: The Freedom Of Information Act Is The Speedometer On Your Car; Not The Cop Writing Tickets.* Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (3/11).
- *Editorial: Public Records, Meetings Laws Protect Us All.* Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (3/11).
- *Chaco Landscape A Powerful Union Of Land And Sky, Zinke Defers Leases But Threats Remains.* Durango (CO) Herald (3/9).
- *Progress On Access.* Montrose (CO) Press (3/11, Davis).
- *Nicolas Loris: RECLAIM Act Will Do Little For Coal Communities.* Huntington (WV) Herald-Dispatch (3/11, Loris).
- *Don't Let The Federal Government Regulate Village EFF Crews Out Of Existence.* Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (3/12, Simon).

- *Time For Hawaii's People To Act Locally.* [Kaua'i \(HI\) Garden Island News](#) (3/11, Kulik).

## Top National News

### **Administration: No Concessions To North Korea In Exchange For Talks.**

In its lead story Sunday night, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (3/11, lead story, 2:10, Quijano) reported President Trump "had a lot to say this weekend in a steady flow of tweets and a Saturday night speech, nearly 75 minutes long, most notably...about his surprise summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un." The President was shown saying: "I think they want to do something. I think they want to make peace. I think it's time." CBS (Barnett) added White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah "says this Administration's stance has had an effect." Shah was shown saying: "Our policy is pressure, pressure from partners and allies around the world. These have had an impact, it impacted Kim Jong-un's behavior. It impacted his conduct."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/11, Mann, Lubold) reports that both CIA Director Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin also suggested Sunday that the Administration's tough sanctions on Pyongyang are responsible for the talks.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/11, Kim) reports Administration officials said Sunday that the US "had made no concessions to the North Korean regime in exchange for what would be a historic meeting" between Trump and Kim, but the White House "also left open the possibility that the talks...could ultimately not occur — particularly if the North Koreans conduct nuclear or missile tests in coming weeks." Said Shah, "There's the possibility. If it does, it's the North Koreans' fault. They have not lived up to the promises that they made."



Shah, the [AP](#) (3/11, Sherman, Burns) reports, also said there will be no more conditions imposed on North Korea before the talks. Said Shah on [ABC's This Week](#), "This potential meeting has been agreed to, there are no additional conditions being stipulated, but, again they — they cannot engage in missile testing, they cannot engage in nuclear testing and they can't publicly object to the US-South Korea planned military exercises."


[Bloomberg News](#) (3/11, Capaccio, Dmitrieva) reports that "some experts have said [the talks] could become a stalling tactic by Kim to avoid additional economic sanctions while continuing to develop weaponry," a notion Shah did not rule out. [Politico](#) (3/11, Griffiths) reports Shah also suggested that "a discussion of human rights is currently not a required component of talks." Said the spokesman, "It is an important issue, but our policy is to ensure maximum pressure to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula." The [New York Post](#) (3/11, Moore) similarly reports Shah's comments.

In addition to Shah, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/11, story 3, 1:45,

O'Donnell) reported several Administration officials on Sunday also discussed the upcoming talks. Defense Secretary Mattis "said those talks means his military planning roles take a backseat." Mattis: "For those who question me about whether it was diplomatically-led, I rest my case with exhibit A." CBS (O'Donnell) said, "Officials say North Korea agreed to cease missile testing, and anything more is on the table." CIA Director Pompeo: "The denuclearization complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization is a topic for discussion." O'Donnell: "Treasury Secretary Mnuchin responds to criticism that the plan, face-to-face, would enhance Kim's stature." Mnuchin: "This isn't about elevating anybody, but this is about the President being clear that he wants to do everything possible to protect America and its allies."

Mattis, the Washington Post (3/11, Lamothe) reports, "said he does not want to talk about the Korean Peninsula 'at all' at this time, underscoring the sensitivity with which he believes Washington must handle a potential meeting" between Trump and Kim. Mattis "said media questions about North Korea are 'very valid,' but he will leave it to the State Department and senior members of the White House to address questions about the meeting."

The Los Angeles Times (3/11, King) reported several "senior administration officials expressed confidence Sunday that President Trump would not be taken advantage of by North Korea's Kim Jong Un prior to and during any direct talks." While "some foreign policy observers have attributed the president's abrupt move at least in part to his fondness for grand gestures," Pompeo said Trump "isn't doing this for theater." On Fox News Sunday , Pompeo said, "He's going to solve a problem," while Mnuchin "also sought to deflect any suggestion that the president would soften the US stance toward North Korea in advance of the talks." Mnuchin said on NBC's Meet the Press  (3/11, Todd), "We're not removing the maximum-pressure campaign," adding that "the sanctions are staying on" and the US would proceed with military exercises in the region as scheduled. Trump, he said, simply planned to "sit down and see if he can cut a deal." Reuters (3/11, Chiacu) also reports Mnuchin's comments to NBC.

On the CBS Weekend News  (3/11, story 3, 2:05, Quijano), Holly Williams said that "after a spate of North Korean missile tests last year...and months of insults between President Trump and Kim Jung-Un, this is an extraordinary turn of events." President Trump, she added, "prides himself on being a deal maker, but a meeting with North Korea's leader is a high-risk strategy."

The Hill (3/11, Shelbourne) reports that "lawmakers on Sunday grappled with possible ramifications" of the talks, with "several Republicans" urging the Administration to approach the them "cautiously while keeping the pressure on North Korea to denuclearize, and some Democrats are raising concerns that a hollowed out State Department cannot back up Trump's promises of a diplomatic solution."

Reuters (3/11, Chiacu, Schroeder) reports that "many Democrats, as well as Trump's fellow Republicans, said the United States should have demanded concessions before granting North Korea a meeting." Sen. Elizabeth Warren said on NBC's Meet the Press (3/11), "Before they get that kind of prize, we should insist that they make some real changes, verifiable changes to their programs," adding that she was worried the North would "take advantage" of Trump. Warren also appeared on CNN's State Of The Union (3/11, Acosta), where she said, "I am very glad to see this Administration move toward a diplomatic approach to North Korea and the principle reason for that is there is no military only solution to the problems presented by North Korea." On Fox News Sunday (3/11, Roberts), Warren said, "I'm worried about going into these negotiations without a strategy and without a strong, full State Department to back them up."

Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) told NBC's Meet the Press (3/11, Todd), "What I want to see - I think what all of us want to see - is the prep work done for this kind of meeting." Flake said, "I can tell you, you don't want to sit down with the leader of North Korea and give him that kind of victory unless you put the groundwork in, unless your diplomats have negotiated things."

The Washington Times (3/11, Richardson) reports Senate Homeland Security Committee chairman Ron Johnson "warned Sunday about being 'snookered again' by North Korea," citing previous deals that saw the United States give up more than it got. Johnson said on CNN's State Of The Union (3/11, Acosta), "President Trump has been engaged in the maximum pressure campaign and I joined in signing a letter, with five other of my Republican Senate colleagues, encouraging President Trump to make sure to maintain that maximum pressure until we see complete verifiable and irreversible denuclearization within North Korea."

Sen. Cory Gardner (R) said on CBS' Face The Nation (3/11, Brennan), "We have found ourselves in this position because of the maximum pressure doctrine, turning away from the failed doctrine of strategic patience, and now really crippling what is left of the North Korean economy. But what we have to hear more of is how we are going to get to those concrete verifiable steps toward denuclearization before this meeting occurs."

A USA Today (3/11) editorial says that the prospect of talks "comes as a relief to an anxious world," but now "comes the hard part." The pathway forward, it says, "is fraught, and the White House has already stumbled. Nine times during a news briefing Friday, spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders asserted that there were preconditions to a summit," but on Sunday, her deputy, Rajiv Shah said, "There are no conditions being stipulated." In addition, Trump's "advance team is a skeleton crew...and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson appeared out of the loop when Trump seized on the summit." The world, it adds, "can exhale for now," but "if and when their meeting occurs, however, expect to hear the sound of deep breaths being drawn."



Eliana Johnson of Politico said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (3/11), "The President hit the nail on the head, when he said who knows what's going to happen. I don't think anybody knows what's going to happen in this meeting. It's important to stress that none of the President's North Korea experts at the State Department, at the Department of Defense had any idea that he was going to agree to this meeting and two months – it seems like a long period of time now – but the President said he wants this meet to go happen by May. It's an extremely short period of time for which to plan a meeting between two heads of state and there's a lot of skepticism this is actually going to come off in that period of time or come off at all."

CNN's Nia Malika Henderson said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (3/11), "Who knows what's going to happen. A lot of people say he gave away so much early on. This is a platform for the North Korean leader that would legitimize him in many ways. That's what he has wanted. That's what his father had wanted before him. And so he kind of gave away the store in some peoples' eyes before he even got anything."

Julie Hirschfield Davis of the New York Times said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (3/11) that "people are happy to not hear talking the President about 'fire and fury.' ... To the degree that he is now talking about diplomacy, that I think is inspiring to people. This is vintage Trump. He makes a statement that's all the way out there...and then almost instantly thereafter the White House starts to inch it back."

Fox News' Gillian Turner said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (3/11), "The Administration has gone from at every available opportunity reminding the North they have a bigger nuclear button, more military capabilities. And now, President Trump is acting like the triangulator-in-chief, going back and forth between China and the South Koreans. The media's response to that has been fairly dramatic. That is because there is a dramatic change in tone. I think it is realistic. It is a reflection of reality in this instance."

***South Korean Official: Talks To Take Place At DMZ.*** [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/11, story 2, 0:20, Llamas) reported briefly that "an official from South Korea" said the possible meeting between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un "could take place at the DMZ. Neither country has confirmed any arrangements." [Bloomberg News](#) (3/11, Capaccio, Dmitrieva) reports White House Deputy Press Secretary Rajiv Shah told ABC's This Week that "holding the meeting in Pyongyang is not highly likely, but nothing has been ruled out for a location."

[USA Today](#) (3/11, Michaels) reports that a location "hasn't been decided yet and could be a source of friction, even potentially scuttling the summit. The location is critical for the signal it sends. For example, if Trump travels to North Korea to meet with Kim, that would appear to give the North Koreans an upper hand. Shah told ABC it was unlikely that Trump would travel to Pyongyang, but he didn't rule anything out."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/11, Taylor), meanwhile, reports that according to "high-level US sources, including two with experience in direct talks with Pyongyang...huge doubts remain over the veracity of North

Korea's reported offer to discuss abandoning its nuclear arsenal and to halt all weapons tests while such discussions play out." Former US special envoy Joseph DeTrani told the Times, "There's a great deal of uncertainty and skepticism right now," noting that the North Korean leader has not yet commented on the talks publicly.

***NYTimes Analysis: Trump's Handling Of Iran Deal Complicates North Korea Talks.*** A [New York Times](#) (3/11, Sanger) analysis says the Iranian and North Korean nuclear programs, "drastically different but often spoken of in the same breath, are now being thrust together, as President Trump's determination to kill the landmark 2015 accord limiting Tehran's capabilities is colliding with his scramble to reach a far more complex deal with Pyongyang." The North, says the Times, "will be watching especially closely in May, when Mr. Trump will face another deadline on deciding whether to abandon the Iran deal." Also in May, "if all goes as Mr. Trump plans, he will head into a face-to-face negotiation with North Korea's dictator, Kim Jong-un." Robert S. Litwak of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars said, "The man who wrote 'The Art of the Deal' has staked out a position that the Iran deal was the worst one in history. And now he has to show that he can do much better, with a far harder case."

### **White House Says US Is Seeking "Concrete Actions" From North Korea Before Trump-Kim Summit.**

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Friday said President Trump will not meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "until we see concrete actions that match the words and the rhetoric of North Korea." Media coverage, which included over 10 minutes on the network newscasts, cast her remarks as an attempt to deflect criticism of Trump for agreeing to meet with Kim without preconditions. However, other reporting was more positive toward the President, particularly regarding Trump's call with Chinese President Xi Jinping about the talks as well as remarks by Vice President Pence and Secretary of State Tillerson.

[Reuters](#) (3/7, Mason, Brunnstrom) reports Sanders said Trump "will not have the meeting without seeing concrete steps and concrete actions take place by North Korea, so the president will actually be getting something." Reuters says that although Sanders "did not specify what actions North Korea needed to take," her remarks served as "a sign that an end to a standoff between the two countries over North Korea's nuclear weapon program is not imminent." However, the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/9, story 3, 0:45, Glor) Chip Reid insisted "there's no guarantee this will be any more than a photo-op and the President gets nothing."

According to the [AP](#) (3/10, Superville, Klug), Sanders' comments seemed to be an attempt "to swat away criticism Friday that the U.S. is getting nothing in exchange for agreeing to a historic face-to-face summit between" Trump and Kim. While Sanders may have been "simply trying to fight back against critics' arguments that this was a giveaway to the North Korean regime – that it was a foolhardy granting of the Kim regime's

decades-long wish to secure an audience with a U.S. president, with little in return," a [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Blake) analysis says her remarks could give the White House "a ready-made excuse to pull out off the whole thing."

However, [Bloomberg News](#) (3/9, Sink, Talev) highlights that an Administration official, in response to Sanders' remarks, "said the White House expects Kim to stick to promises – conveyed through South Korean envoys – that he would cease weapons tests before the summit and that he's open to discussing denuclearization." The [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Morello) reports a senior State Department official also "said the planned talks between Trump and Kim would amount to just that: talks. Subsequently, if the conditions were ripe, they would evolve into formal negotiations, the official said."

Kristen Welker said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/9, story 2, 2:30, Holt) that "instead of clarity," her remarks resulted in "confusion." Welker added the "mixed messaging" is "raising questions about whether the process was rushed, especially after the President made a decision so quickly he caught some of his own top officials at the White House and Pentagon off guard." Kaitlan Collins of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/9, 5:37 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) stressed Sanders interpretation contradicts "what the South Korean national security adviser said when he was on the North Lawn of the White House, he actually said they were committed to denuclearization overall – not that it was a precondition for those talks."

[AFP](#) (3/10) reports the President on Friday [tweeted](#), "The deal with North Korea is very much in the making and will be, if completed, a very good one for the World. Time and place to be determined." [Reuters](#) (3/9, Chiacu) reports the White House also said that Trump in a call with Xi "welcomed the prospect of dialogue with North Korea in a telephone call." In a statement, the White House said, "The two leaders welcomed the prospect of dialogue between the United States and North Korea, and committed to maintain pressure and sanctions until North Korea takes tangible steps toward complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization." In an article titled "China Cautiously Welcomes Trump-Kim Summit," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Page) reports that while China has long lobbied for direct talks between the US and North Korea, Xi's remarks expressing support for the summit appeared to be muted.

[Reuters](#) (3/9, Heavey, Brunnstrom) reports Pence in a statement separately declared the Administration has made "zero concessions" and "consistently increased the pressure" on Kim's regime. The Vice President added North Korea's invitation to hold direct talks "is evidence that...Trump's strategy to isolate the Kim regime is working."

In addition, [Bloomberg News](#) (3/9, Wadhams) reports Tillerson on Friday told reporters in Djibouti that Trump had been considering meeting with Kim "for quite some time" [Reuters](#) (3/9, Fick) reports Tillerson at another news conference in Kenya added, "As we've seen in the last 24 hours, the policy we've put in place [on North Korea] and executed by the

State Department has succeeded.”

Bloomberg News (3/8, Sink, Olorunnipa, Talev, Faries) reports Tillerson also “said the tenor of the message Kim sent through the South Korean delegation persuaded Trump the time was ripe to engage, ‘a decision the president took himself.’” Tillerson added, “This was the most forward-leaning report that we’ve had in terms of Kim Jong Un’s not just willingness but his strong desire for talks. ... So I think really what changed was his posture in a fairly dramatic way in all honesty that came as a little bit of a surprise to us.”

However, the AP (3/9, Lederman) reports the Secretary of State “drew a distinction Friday between ‘talks’ with North Korea and ‘negotiations,’” but he “did not define the precise difference between talks and negotiations, and it was unclear what there was for the two countries – still technically at war – would have to discuss if not a deal to address concerns about the North’s nuclear weapons program.” According to the AP, Trump and Kim “ostensibly...could hold preliminary conversations to see if there’s enough common ground and good will to proceed to formal negotiations.”

Meanwhile, in a profile of Susan Thornton, assistant secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, USA Today (3/9, Dorell) says the “tough talking, 27-year veteran of East Asian diplomacy” is responsible for mediating “between the combative President Trump and bombastic North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at their upcoming meeting.” USA Today highlights that the State Department’s Special Representative for North Korea Joseph Yun retired March 2, so Stephen Goldstein, undersecretary of State for public diplomacy, said Thornton is leading the department’s preparations for the meeting, while “Director for Korea Policy Mark Lambert and Marc Knapper, the chargé d’affaires at the U.S. Embassy in South Korea, are helping Thornton shape U.S. strategy toward the North,” according to State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert.

CNN’s Situation Room (3/9, 6:38 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr said there is “no telling at all” how such talks will unfold, but on Friday, US military officials maintained that “nothing has changed for them,” and North Korea is “still very much a threat.” The overarching situation elicits a “critical question” as to “why President Trump agreed to meet with the world’s most isolated leader” at a time when Kim is “feeling the bite of sanctions.” Kim does, however, come “to the table in the strongest military position North Korea has ever had.” Kim “has always wanted to be acknowledged as a world power, and now, he has a recently-improved arsenal in hand before he sits down with Donald Trump.” The most immediate threat, US intelligence analysts believe, is the possibility that North Korea will affix “a warhead on a missile capable of attacking the US” before the year’s end.

The “high-level diplomatic encounter [is] so risky and seemingly far-fetched that some of Mr. Trump’s aides believe it will never happen,” the New York Times (3/9, A1, Landler) reports in a front-page article, and

several US officials "said Friday that the United States still needed to establish direct contact with North Korea to verify the message from Mr. Kim that was conveyed by South Korean envoys to Mr. Trump" and "warned that Mr. Kim could change his mind or break the promises he made about halting nuclear and missile tests during talks."

In the lead story for CNN's Situation Room (3/9, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), senior correspondent Jeff Zeleny similarly said with Sanders' remarks on Friday, "one day after the President stunned the world by accepting" Kim's invitation, "it became clear how complicated and confusing arranging [the meeting] will be." The White House is now "scrambling to follow through with what could be the biggest diplomatic gamble in generations." Zeleny also said questions remain about where such talks would take place and who would attend and acknowledged Trump's quick acceptance raised questions about whether the President has "given up too much here by agreeing to go in advance," or if he will ultimately be "the first US president to ever have this type of meeting."

The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 4, 1:40, Glor) senior foreign affairs correspondent Margaret Brennan said Trump "has long said that under the right circumstances, he would be willing to meet with Kim Jong-un," but on Thursday, "he surprised his own national security team by quickly deciding that the time was ripe based on Kim Jong-un's pledge to hold off on testing his nuclear and missile programs." Brennan added Trump acceptance and public announcement "caught some officials off guard, as they had expected to be able to mull over options and figure out exactly what a presidential encounter would even look like." In a front-page article, the Wall Street Journal (3/9, A1, Gordon, Bender, Schwartz) reports the Administration will face challenges in preparing for the meeting between Trump and Kim due to the lack of prior notice.

ABC World News Tonight (3/9, story 2, 3:40, Muir) chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl reported that "Kim's invitation included a promise to pause nuclear and missile tests and to accept that US troops will continue joint military exercises with the South." Karl added that the White House seemingly accepted "the offer with no strings attached, saying simply the president 'will accept the invitation to meet with Kim Jong-un at a place and time to be determined.'"

In a front-page article, the Washington Post (3/9, A1, Nakamura, Gearan) says "Trump's personal involvement in the White House's deliberations over the world's most serious and vexing security situation has placed a president who considers himself a master dealmaker into the most fraught faceoff of his 71 years." According to the Post, "A breakthrough that would reduce Pyongyang's nuclear threat would be a legacy-defining achievement. A stalemate that gives Kim a photo op for nothing in return could fracture U.S. alliances and be seen as a devastating embarrassment." However, the Post contends that "what the whirlwind evening at the White House also illustrated was that in his unorthodox presidency, which centers so singularly on his force of personality, Trump

has little worry about a dearth of qualified staff because he considers himself to be his own diplomat, negotiator and strategist.”

In a front-page article, the New York Times (3/9, A1, Sanger) says that if Trump does meet with Kim, “the challenge of verifying that North Korea is on the way to disarmament will be far, far greater than it was nearly two decades ago.” The Times adds that “without freedom to roam the country, looking for evidence of a second uranium enrichment facility that the C.I.A. believes exists but cannot prove, or for hidden mobile missile launchers, any agreement runs the risk of falling apart – as previous ones have.”

The New York Times (3/9) editorializes in favor of the meeting and argues the Administration “should make the most of this opportunity.” However, the Times acknowledges “the precipitous way in which Mr. Trump agreed to the invitation, and the fact that this mercurial president, ill informed and ill prepared on complex national security issues, will be across the table from Mr. Kim is worrisome.” The Times concedes that the “unorthodox summit meeting between two leaders with a flair for the dramatic [may] be hugely successful,” but warns “it could also collapse in failure, making it a very high-stakes gamble for Mr. Trump.”

In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/9) declares the President “is right to pursue negotiations with North Korea,” but warns “his sudden decision to accept an unprecedented summit with Kim Jong Un compounds the already high probability of failure.” The Post cautions “the evidence suggests that the Korea summit, like Mr. Trump’s recent decision on trade tariffs, was embraced by the president without much thought,” which “raises the question: Does the president have a strategy for using the meeting to U.S. advantage?” The Post adds “the risk is that the regime will follow its well-established pattern: capture the world’s attention with provocative acts; then agree to negotiations to extract economic and political concessions; then break any commitments it has made.” The Post concludes Trump “should not...walk blindly into an encounter with a dictator who, we can be sure, will be well-prepared to take advantage of this president’s well-known weaknesses – starting with his penchant for impulsive decisions.”

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/9) expresses misgivings about the summit between Trump and Kim. According to the Journal, the meeting will confer legitimacy upon the North Korean regime that could serve to weaken the alliance between the US and South Korea, particularly if the talks fail.

A Bloomberg View (3/9) editorial credits the Administration “for marshaling a stringent global sanctions regime that’s taking a real toll on North Korea” and concedes that Trump’s “intemperate threats have pushed Chinese leaders into adopting harsher sanctions than they might otherwise have done.” However, Bloomberg recommends that for the summit to succeed, “that will require Trump to be less like Trump.” Bloomberg asserts the President “shouldn’t assume his adversary has been cowed” and “would

also be wise to tamp down his inexplicable confidence that he possesses singular deal-making abilities.”

***Lawmakers “Cautiously Optimistic” On Trump-Kim Talks, But Republicans “Wary” And Democrats “Skeptical.”*** White House correspondent John Roberts said in the lead story for Fox News’ Special Report (3/9, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Baier) that the overall reaction “to the announcement was almost all universally positive,” and critics who were once “angry over President Trump’s get-tough approach to North Korea” are now “saying, well, maybe he was right.”

A Washington Post (3/9, Phillips) analysis says that “on one of Trump’s most consequential and risky dealmaking endeavors yet, direct talks with the nuclear-armed pariah state of North Korea, Congress seems to be cautiously optimistic that Trump can handle it.” According to the Post, Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker and other “hawkish...are extremely wary of such talks, urging Trump to keep the stick of sanctions heavy as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un certainly will try to negotiate those down,” while “Democrats who have long favored diplomacy over military solutions with North Korea even applauded the fact talks were happening, though they warned Trump to be very careful.” USA Today (3/9, Wolf) similarly says “reactions from Democrats were cautiously optimistic but tempered with skepticism. ‘Risk’ was the word repeated most often.”

The Washington Times (3/9, McLaughlin) reports Sen. Cory Gardner on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” on Friday warned, “If the result of this meeting is not verifiable concrete steps to denuclearization, than it will be a failure, and then the president is going to be under tremendous pressure because that new red line has been set to act.” Gardner additionally “said the only way these talks are going to succeed is if China is involved ‘in a way that they have never done before.’”

The Washington Times (3/9, McLaughlin) reports Sen. Richard Blumenthal “said Friday President Trump’s plan to sit down with North Korea dictator Kim Jong-un should be considered a ‘meeting’ and not a ‘negotiation’ over its nuclear program.” Blumenthal added, “There is a lot of reasons for skepticism. ... As a member of the Armed Service Committee, there is no sign that we’ve seen that North Korea is going to simply walk away from its nuclear program or abandon its missiles or nuclear warheads.”

Politico Magazine (3/9, Rubin) contributing editor James Rubin, a former assistant secretary of state in the Clinton Administration, concedes the White House will promote the narrative of “Trump as Grand Negotiator,” which is why when it comes to his meeting with Kim, it “behooves observers to focus on the substance rather than getting lost in the atmospherics.” Rubin adds the President will have to answer “hard questions about the rationale for America’s military presence in South Korea and the necessity of U.S. military might in Asia as a counter to the growing political, military and economic power of China,” given “there

seems little doubt that Kim will be probing Mr. Trump to try to undermine the U.S. commitment to South Korea's defense and to see what it will take to achieve a U.S. troop withdrawal."

The Washington Post (3/9, Sonne) reports former Defense Secretary William Perry "described the move as 'very encouraging' and 'a major improvement over diplomacy that consisted of shouting insults at each other,'" as did other former diplomats. The Post adds that "many" Trump supporters also "presented the meeting as a breakthrough and reveled in the tempered praise of Democrats who have long advocated for direct talks with North Korea and an approach to the country that doesn't involve a preemptive strike."

However, in a piece examining the response to the President's announcement, Politico (3/9, Nelson) reports that "Susan Rice, who served as national security adviser and U.S. ambassador to the U.N. under President Barack Obama, expressed skepticism that Trump could successfully pull off the high-wire act of meeting with Kim, which she said would require significant preparation and input from experts who she said had fled government service." Politico adds "Rice warned that, handled poorly, a face-to-face meeting between Trump and Kim could increase the risk of armed conflict between the U.S. and North Korea."

Former US Ambassador to South Korea Chris Hill told NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 3, 1:30, Mitchell), "They are really rolling the dice here, and I, for one, and I think many people want them to succeed." Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman likewise stated, "This is an incredibly difficult negotiation for the President, for anyone, for that matter, and he will need a very seasoned team that understands all the technical issues here." On CNN's Situation Room (3/9, 5:23 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Evans Revere, a former US diplomat to South Korea, said the arrangement "has been somewhat haphazardly prepared, and very, very quickly concerned, and I'm very concerned about this."

Reuters (3/9, Holland, Mason) reports Jim Steinberg, who served as deputy secretary of state under former President Clinton, said, "It's hard to know whether this is just his supreme confidence that he can get a deal done with his own business experience, or whether he is calculating that he wins either way." Ned Price, a former national security council spokesman for former President Obama, added, "We have to be clear-eyed that if this meeting is done in isolation, absent from a broader strategy that advances American interests, it will be a propaganda coup for Kim." Bill Richardson, Clinton's US ambassador to the UN, "called the Trump-Kim summit a gamble" and said, "I worry that he might be falling into a trap."

In his New York Times (3/9, Kristof) column, Nicholas Kristof asserts "it's infinitely better that North Korea and the United States exchange words rather than missiles," but he cautions that Trump's plans to meet with Kim "strikes me as a dangerous gamble and a bad idea. I'm afraid that North Korea may be playing Trump, and that in turn Trump may be



playing us." Kristof adds that "direct talks should be conducted by seasoned diplomats, offering an eventual summit meeting only as a carrot at the end of the process – and only if the summit serves some purpose higher than changing the headlines in the U.S. and legitimizing Kim's regime abroad. A face-to-face should advance the interests of two countries, not just two leaders."

In his [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Hewitt) column, conservative radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt reflected on past summits between former President Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev as well as former President Richard Nixon and Mao Zedong to provide advice for Trump. According to Hewitt, "If Kim gets a dose of something he has never gotten before – an ultimatum of denuclearization vs. destruction – it could work."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/9, 6:44 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) national security analyst Sam Vinograd said the "good news" is that the development brings with it "a short term de-escalation in the region," although Trump's acceptance of Kim's invitation "puts all that at risk and gives Kim Jong-un a 'get-out-of-jail-free card.'" Vinograd said news of such a meeting "should have stayed private," but the White House instead, "for some reason, had to announce this publicly last night before the pre-conditions were there." Therefore, Vinograd said, if the White House imposes such pre-conditions on the talks, Kim could backtrack on his offer on grounds that the "terms have changed."

Rebecca Berg of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/9, 6:50 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) pointed to Trump's moves on tariffs as an example of how the President "is very stubborn" and, once committed to something, "he likes to follow through" and "won't listen to critics." That, Berg said, is "one reason" why the meeting may in fact take place.

The Washington Examiner's Tom Rogan told [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/9, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Baier) that whether or not the meeting is successful, "it is progress in the sense that finally North Korea has put itself in a position to at least talk about the potential suspension of these programs." He added, "I don't think there is anything to lose here if – if – the President meets with Kim Jong-un as soon as possible, and when they do meet, about 72 hours after, they get the inspectors in."

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/9, 6:44 p.m. EDT, Baier), Charles Hurt of the Washington Times said despite the meeting, "you don't want to minimize the part about some of the bellicose remarks." Trump himself "has warned against false hopes," Hurt added, but "I would rather have this happening right now than something else." Ultimately, Hurt said, "20 years of strategic patience" has not yielded results, "and so maybe jangling some chains and some movement is not a bad thing."

In what the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Wang) calls "another bizarre twist in modern politics," Dennis Rodman hailed Trump for deciding to meet with Kim. In a statement, the former NBA player said that Trump is "on the way to a historical meeting no U.S. president has ever done. I'm looking forward to bringing more basketball diplomacy to North Korea in the

upcoming months." According to the Post, "Rodman is one of only two people to have met both Trump and Kim. The other is South Korean national security adviser Chung Eui-yong, who extended the invitation from Kim to Trump during a visit to Washington this week."

***World Leaders Welcome Talks Between Trump And Kim As Switzerland, Sweden, And Mongolia Offer To Host Meeting.*** Reuters (3/9, Nichols) reports UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "is encouraged by the planned meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, his spokesman said on Friday."

Reuters (3/9, Martin) reports German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, "Regarding North and South Korea and also the possibility of a meeting with the president of the United States, you can see that a cohesive international position, including sanctions, can lead to glimmers of hope." She added, "It would be wonderful if we could experience a detente."

Reuters (3/9, Maasho) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov called the planned summit "a step in the right direction," but said, "It should not just be a meeting, it should open up a way to resuming a fully fledged diplomatic process to find a solution to the North Korean nuclear issue on the basis of principles agreed during the six-party talks and the U.N. Security Council."

Reuters (3/9, Shields, Nebehay) reports the Swiss Foreign Ministry in a statement on Friday offered to host the meeting between Trump and Kim. The Washington Post (3/9, Taylor) acknowledges that "as a real estate tycoon like Trump should know, location can be a key factor in negotiations." According to the Post, "Sweden and Switzerland have issued statements offering to help facilitate the meeting, while former Mongolian president Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj suggested that his country was the most 'suitable, neutral territory.'" The Post adds that "the issue raises a number of symbolic points that both sides will need to grapple with, as well as some major practical concerns: Though he was raised partially in Switzerland, since he took power in North Korea in late 2011, Kim has not set foot outside the country."

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (3/9, Cheng, Gale) says that by accepting the meeting with Kim, Trump is also benefiting South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the expense of other regional allies including Japan. The New York Times (3/9, Sang-Hun) declares that "Trump's head-spinning decision to accept an invitation to meet with Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader, amounts to a remarkable diplomatic coup for Mr. Moon, who engineered the rapprochement in a whirlwind of diplomacy that began at the Winter Olympics last month and gained momentum faster than perhaps even he had anticipated." The Times highlights that "Moon went out of his way to credit Mr. Trump with each breakthrough" and states that Moon not only "steered two headstrong, erratic adversaries away from a military conflict that could have been devastating for his nation, he has maneuvered the Trump administration into pursuing negotiations that it has long resisted – but that he and his allies on South Korea's political left

have long pressed for.”

However, Reuters (3/9, Sieg, Kubo) warns Trump’s decision to meet with Kim “looked likely to fan Japanese angst over being sidelined, although Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday there was no diplomatic daylight between Tokyo and Washington.” Bloomberg News (3/8, Nohara) reported Abe also “said he will meet U.S. President Donald Trump in April, and the two nations agreed that it’s important to keep economic and military pressure on North Korea ahead of Trump’s meeting with Kim Jong Un by the end of May.” Following a call with Trump, Abe told reporters, “Japan and the U.S. have cooperated firmly and put pressure along with South Korea and the international community. ... We will keep up our utmost pressure until North Korea takes concrete steps in order to abandon its nuclear missiles in a transparent and irreversible way.”

***US And South Korea To Stage Routine Joint Military Exercises.*** The Washington Post (3/9, Lamothe) reports “South Korean national security adviser Chung Eui-yong announced Thursday at the White House that in addition to President Trump agreeing to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by May, Kim pledged that North Korea will refrain from additional nuclear or missile tests and ‘understands that the routine joint military exercises between the Republic of Korea and the United States must continue.’” According to the Post, “The latter acknowledgment marked a significant shift for the Kim regime,” which “has typically reacted angrily” to the annual “military exercises known as Foal Eagle and Key Resolve.”

***Japanese Trial Of Shipwrecked North Korean Fisherman Showcases Impact Of Sanctions.*** The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Tsuneoka, Gale) discusses how the Japanese trial of a North Korean fisherman puts a spotlight the how international sanctions may be having an increased impact on the Kim regime.

***North Korean Military Acquiring Chinese-Made Drones.*** The family of “shadowy” Chinese businessman Wang Dewen told AFP (3/9, McMorro) that he is “definitely not working in North Korea,” but UN experts believe he “is one of several Chinese traders who may have helped Pyongyang build a fleet of around 300 military drones.” AFP adds “the network is believed to form a crucial part of the logistics chain that has allowed the North to fly unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) that have snooped on a new US missile defence system in the South and taken pictures of Seoul’s presidential palace.” However, China’s foreign ministry in a statement insisted that “the country has ‘always comprehensively and strictly carried out UN Security Council resolutions’ and actions violating UN resolutions ‘will be handled according to the law and regulations.’”

### **Trump Stumps For Saccone In Pennsylvania.**

President Trump held a rally on Saturday in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on behalf of state Rep. Rick Saccone, the Republican candidate for Congress in Tuesday’s special election. While the NBC Nightly News was the sole

network newscast to provide broadcast about the President's trip, reporting was heavy in print and online. Media coverage characterized the speech as reminiscent of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and many articles highlighted that the President quipped his 2020 campaign slogan will be "Keep America Great!"

Typical of the tone of the reporting was the New York Times (3/10, Cochrane, Haberman), which says the speech was "ostensibly an effort to help Republicans stave off a deflating defeat in a western Pennsylvania congressional district that...Trump won by 20 points," but "for almost all of his 75-minute performance in front of a raucous crowd packed into a hangar, it was in-his-element Trump, vintage 2016: rambling and fiery, boastful and jocular – the part of being president that he loves perhaps the most." The Times adds that the President "showed the kind of free-flowing attitude that his aides have said they expect to see throughout this year" as he "ticked off what he said were his achievements – some coming just in recent days – on a laundry list of issues like North Korea, trade and the economy, and attacked his predecessors for their failures on the same."

Reuters (3/10, Holland) similarly reports that "while he heartily endorsed Saccone as a 'really good person,' Trump spent a lot of time talking about his own fortunes in a 'Make America Great Again' rally in an airport hangar at the Pittsburgh International Airport." The Hill (3/10, Seipel) says the President was "in full campaign mode" at the rally, as does Politico (3/10, Schneider, Griffiths), which says Trump returned "to top campaign form" as he "made fun of Washington and congratulated himself for maintaining his iconoclastic style in office, despite critics who have called for him to take his job more seriously." However, Politico concedes "Trump got business out of the way quickly Saturday night – urging voters to elect...Saccone, who's locked in an unexpectedly tough special election battle in Pennsylvania – before turning to the main subject of the night: himself."

KDKA-TV Pittsburgh (3/10) reports on its website that "a thunderous crowd of at least 5,000 supporters greeted" the President, as he called on them "Get out on Tuesday, vote for Rick Saccone and we can leave right now." KDKA adds Trump "lost little time embracing his favorite candidate for Congress in next Tuesday's special election." The President said, "Go out, vote for Rick. He'll never, ever disappoint you. He's a winner." Trump added, "He's never gonna disappoint you. Just go out. Vote with your hearts. Vote with your brains. This is an extraordinary man."

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (3/10, Venteicher) reports the President "whip[ped] up a partisan crowd to support...Saccone" and "touched on the national attention the race has received, with polls showing a few percentage points between the two candidates despite Trump's winning the district – which includes parts of Allegheny, Washington, Westmoreland and Greene counties – by 19 percentage points in 2016." The WGAL-TV Lancaster, PA (3/10) website notes "the 18th district was vacated when Republican Tim Murphy resigned after an affair

with a staffer became public.”

The AP (3/11, Barrow, Colvin) reports Trump “unabashedly fram[ed] the race as a tune-up for the GOP’s efforts to maintain its control of Capitol Hill,” but he warned, “we can only do that if we elect people who are going to back our agenda.” Trump said, “The people of Pittsburgh cannot be conned by” Conor Lamb, who the AP describes as “a 33-year-old Marine veteran and former prosecutor [who] has positioned himself as” a moderate Democrat as well as “more representative of the district than Saccone, a 60-year-old state lawmaker.” Trump added that Lamb is “never going to vote for us. He can say, ‘I love President Trump.’ ... I don’t want to meet him. I might like him.” The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (3/10, Wardle) reports Trump continued, “I hate to put this pressure on you, Rick, but the world is watching, because I won this district.”

Roll Call (DC) (3/10, Bowman) reports “Trump mentioned Saccone a half-dozen times in a speech that lasted more than an hour, and brought the candidate onstage toward the end,” but the President spent the remainder of the time a dressing “a myriad of subjects, including his recent tariff announcement, news that he could meet with the leader of North Korea, the economy, his 2016 presidential win, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Todd of NBC News, illegal immigration and imposing the death penalty on drug dealers.” The Wall Street Journal (3/10, Jamerson) similarly reports that Trump discussed a number of topics, as does Business Insider (3/10, Mark), which highlights that in his “raucous speech,” Trump “lashed out at some of his favorite targets, one by one.”

CNN (3/10, Bradner) reports online that “after immediately endorsing Saccone when he hit the stage, Trump pivoted to a 75-minute torrent of policy musings, political attacks and presidential campaign previews.” CNN says the President “opened his whirlwind speech by touting his administration’s new tariffs – 25% on steel imports and 10% on aluminum imports.” Bloomberg News (3/10, Epstein) reports “minutes into his speech,” Trump declared, “We’re saving the steel, and a lot of steel mills are opening up” and “later said the countries of the European Union had banded together ‘to screw the U.S. on trade,’ and repeated a recent threat to slap tariffs on German luxury cars.” According to Bloomberg, the tariffs “are popular in the district in the heart of steel country.”

The Washington Post (3/10, Kim, Johnson, Rucker) reports Trump then “veered off into a list of other topics, including North Korea, his distaste for the news media and his own election victory 16 months ago,” and “said that allowing prosecutors to seek the death penalty for drug dealers – an idea he said he got from Chinese President Xi Jinping – is ‘a discussion we have to start thinking about. I don’t know if this country’s ready for it.’” Trump said, “Do you think the drug dealers who kill thousands of people during their lifetime, do you think they care who’s on a blue-ribbon committee?. ... The only way to solve the drug problem is through toughness. When you catch a drug dealer, you’ve got to put him away for a long time.” According to the Daily Caller (3/10, Randall), Trump

also "called on Congress to immediately stop funding sanctuary cities," which he said are "aiding and abetting criminals."

USA Today (3/10, Jackson) reports Trump additionally "talked about his own 2020 re-election bid during a meandering speech that lasted more than an hour." USA Today says the President "bragged about his prospective meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and berated predecessors Barack Obama, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton for not stopping that nation's nuclear weapons program." USA Today reports Trump then "attacked some of his potential challengers in the 2020 presidential election," including Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Oprah Winfrey, "as well as the media." Fox News (3/10, Dedaj) reports on its website that the President also "took a swipe at NBC "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd" and "took the opportunity to slam CNN for its coverage over his decision to meet with" Kim while the Daily Caller (3/10, Randall) reports Trump "criticized California Rep. Maxine Waters for having a 'low IQ.'"

***White House Preparing Transition Into 2018 Campaign Mode.*** The Hill (3/10, Easley) reports the White House "is gearing up for a fall blitz, with aides saying [Trump] plans to hit the campaign trail for Republican candidates four, five or even six days a week starting around Labor Day." According to The Hill, "the White House says it's been inundated with candidates seeking the president's endorsement and aides are eager to get Trump on the stump. The White House is open to the possibility of backing candidates in some GOP primaries, as well." In an interview, White House political director Bill Stepien said, "There's a desire by these candidates to have the president out on the trail. ... He takes that responsibility very seriously as the leader of the party and, most importantly, to help elect the people who will advance his agenda."

In her Washington Post (3/9, Parker) column, Kathleen Parker conceded that "whether November will produce a blue wave crashing down on a crimson tide – or an estrogen rout of the testosterone swamp – remains to be seen," but she asserted "early signs suggest that Republicans will have to scratch and fight to keep their dwindling majorities (41 have left or aren't seeking reelection) in the House and Senate." According to Parker, "any Republican loss now would give Democrats a lift and create momentum for races to come."

***Trump's Tariffs Expected To Play Key Role In Pennsylvania Special Election.*** NBC Nightly News (3/10, story 5, 2:40, Diaz-Balart) reported Trump's new steel and aluminum tariffs "could play a mayor role" in the special election. Correspondent Geoff Bennett said Saccone is "embracing the Trump agenda" in his bid against Lamb, but "polling shows the special election is neck and neck, and Lamb supporters hope a win will put Washington on notice." Bennett added that with so much riding on the race, "it's thought that the President even timed the rollout of those tough new steel tariffs to give Saccone a boost with the district's blue collar voters." The Washington Post (3/10, A1, Weigel) on its front page asserts the tariffs have "universal support" in Moon Township, Pennsylvania and

both Saccone and Lamb “agree that the Republican president’s tariffs are good for jobs and the country.”

However, the New York Times (3/10, Davey, Cohen) says that for farmers in the Midwest, “the prospect of steel and aluminum tariffs was adding to the list of worries and uncertainties that come with every corn and soybean season.” According to the Times, the Midwest “accounts for roughly half the nation’s agricultural output, a prime target in any tit-for-tat response to the tariffs.” The Times adds that “unlike the rest of the economy, farms deliver a trade surplus for the United States, [so] a trade war could put barriers around lucrative markets.”

Meanwhile, Washington Post (3/9) senior congressional correspondent Paul Kane highlights that “Republicans and their outside allies have thrown almost everything at Conor Lamb,” but he says that their messaging has not “done the damage Republicans had been hoping for – Lamb and Saccone are running neck and neck.”

***Saccone Campaign Defends Candidate’s Diplomatic Work.*** The Hill (3/10, Sanchez) reports Saccone “is facing questions over his description of working as a diplomat in North Korea” as the American representative for the Korea Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) from December 2000 to December 2001. The Hill says that while a spokesman asserted Saccone “interacted daily with the North Koreans regarding the implementation of the agreed framework” and “served in a diplomatic capacity for KEDO,” Kim Joong-keun, a South Korean representative at the same time as Saccone, told The Guardian that Saccone “did not meet with any important North Koreans” and said, “Of all the Americans I worked with, I would rank Saccone at the bottom.”

***Lamb Spends Saturday Canvassing Neighborhoods.*** The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (3/10, Aupperlee) reports “Lamb spent Saturday wrapping up his campaign for Congress one voter at a time” as he “knocked on doors in Jefferson Hills, reminding people to vote Tuesday and asking them to vote for him.” According to the Tribune-Review, “Lamb said knocking on doors helps cut through the advertisements flooding television.” In contrast, the AP (3/11, Peoples) says “there is no sign of...Saccone on Sherwood Drive” even though his campaign “told some residents that he might be knocking on doors that morning.” The AP reports that while Trump may favor Saccone, “he’s leaning seemingly exclusively on that and struggling with the basics of modern-day politics.” The AP adds Saccone “has little organization of his own” compared with Lamb, and “Saccone indirectly admitted as much Saturday ahead of the president’s arrival.”

### **Five Cabinet Secretaries To Testify Before Senate Committee To Promote Infrastructure Plan.**

Reuters (3/9, Shepardson) reports five members of the Trump cabinet – the secretaries of Transportation, Commerce, Labor, Agriculture, and Labor – will testify before the Senate Commerce Committee this Wednesday, March 14, in order to promote the plan to unleash \$1.5 trillion in public and

private infrastructure investments using \$200 billion in direct federal spending. While House Speaker Ryan has said Congress probably will pass a set of infrastructure bills instead of one grand bill, the Democrats have offered their own counter proposal to spend \$1 trillion on infrastructure and pay for it by repealing some of the tax cuts from last December. There is also the issue of raising the gas tax, which has received mixed support from Congress and the White House.

### **Labor Department: US Added 313,000 Jobs In February.**

In a front-page article, the Wall Street Journal (3/9, Morath, Nunn) reports the Labor Department on Friday announced US nonfarm payrolls increased by a seasonally adjusted 313,000 in February, which represented the largest monthly gain since July 2016. The Journal adds that for the fifth consecutive month, the unemployment rate remained at 4.1 percent.

In a brief report, NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 5, 0:15, Holt) stated that the report "blows away economists' expectations," as does the Washington Post (3/9, Paquette), which says the Bureau of Labor Statistics figures "smash[ed] analysts' expectations." In a statement, Labor Secretary Acosta said, "President Trump's tax reform continues to boost economic confidence with more than 400 companies handing out bonuses, raises, or other benefits to more than 4 million Americans."

The New York Times (3/9, Cohen) acknowledges "a winning combination of hefty job creation and a swelling work force signaled the economy's fundamental strength. At the same time, modest wage growth defused concerns that competition for workers was driving up salaries and igniting inflation." The Times adds that in a tweet, the President "relayed the news in capital letters: 'JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!'" Washington Post (3/9, Bump) national correspondent Philip Bump says that "analysts had expected to find that the economy added about 200,000 jobs last month, but the tally topped 313,000, the highest number since President Trump was inaugurated."

The Washington Times (3/9, Miller) reports Vice President Pence on Friday tweeted, "GREAT NEWS! 313,000 new JOBS created in February and nearly 3 million jobs added since @POTUS was elected. A year of ACTION, a year of RESULTS!" The Times adds Pence also "singled out the boost in construction jobs," which grew to an 11-year high by 61,000 last month. In a brief report, ABC World News Tonight (3/9, story 8, 0:25, Muir) also emphasized that "800,000 Americans joined the labor force. That's the biggest one-month increase since 1982."

In the second CBS Evening News (3/9, story 2, 1:55, Glor) segment, Jim Axelrod reported "the economy's nine-year expansion is now the third longest on record." The segment broadcast Treasury Secretary Mnuchin saying on CNBC: "The President's number one objective is to create economic growth, three percent sustained GDP we have now had two quarters of three percent or higher. So we're well on our way." Axelrod asserted "Mnuchin's optimism is spurred on by unemployment, unchanged



at 4.1 percent, which suggests more people looking for jobs and keeping a lid on inflation fears, as well as the effects of a corporate tax cut, and regulation rollbacks.”

Writing in the New York Times (3/9, Irwin) “The Upshot” blog, Neil Irwin says the 39-page Labor Department report “can be summed up in four words: The economy is humming.” The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Timiraos) reports the jobs data likely keeps the Federal Reserve on track to continue to raise interest rates.

***Stock Market Surges Following Release Of Jobs Report.*** The New York Times (3/9, Phillips) reports “investors welcomed Friday’s unemployment and jobs data from the government, which showed a near-perfect combination of surprisingly strong job growth and little indication of rising wages that could prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates faster.” According to the Times, “the Standard & Poor’s 500-stock, the Dow Jones industrial average and the Nasdaq composite index all closed more than 1.7 percent higher, driven by gains across a range of sectors.”

The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Gold, Craymer) says the stock markets extended the week’s gains while Bloomberg News (3/9, Ponczek) reports “the Nasdaq Composite Index rallied to a fresh record Friday, capping an 11 percent gain since its Feb. 8 low as investors poured back into the nine-year old bull market’s biggest winners.” However, Bloomberg acknowledges “indexes for every other corner of the market, from mega-caps to small-caps to the S&P 500 have yet to reclaim the same milestone.”

***WSJournal Celebrates Jobs Report, But Warns Tariffs Could Endanger Economy.*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/9) lauds the strong February jobs report and the positive stock market response, but warns the newly announced tariffs could reverse this progress.

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

### **New York Times.**

***“Never Again’ Holocaust Museum Tells Burmese Leader.”*** A New York Times (3/11) editorial says the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s decision to rescind the Elie Wiesel Award it granted five years ago Burmese leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is “sad,” and yet “proper,” in light of her silence on “the horrific persecution of the Rohingya Muslim minority in her country.” The Times says “there is little to suggest” Suu Kyi was coerced into silence by the Burmese military, as the museum had acknowledged, and “far more evidence that she shares the Buddhist nationalism that is behind the military repression of the Rohingya.” The Times concludes in saying that the museum’s decision “is a sorrowful witness to the fall of a hero, but also to the real face of the enemy the Rohingya face in their land.” As such, the Times says, the United Nations and world leaders must “urgently add to the pressure” on those “accused of crimes against the Rohingya.”

### **Washington Post.**

**"The US Separates A Mother And Daughter Fleeing Violence In Congo."** The Washington Post (3/11) editorializes that last year, then DHS Secretary John Kelly "said publicly that his department might separate children from parents caught crossing the border, including those fleeing violence and seeking asylum, as a punitive means of deterring others who might follow." Now, "as immigration advocates document such cases occurring nationwide...DHS officials profess outrage at suggestions that they would do such a thing 'for reasons other than to protect the child.'" The Post goes on to cite the case of a 39-year-old mother and her 7-year-old daughter, "asylum seekers who fled Congo, fearing violence," who were separated from one another and calls on Secretary Nielsen to reunite them.

**"There's A Smart Way To Pay For Infrastructure. Trump Can Tell Congress How."** The Washington Post (3/11) argues for "a modest boost in the gas levy, which has been stuck at 18.4 cents per gallon since 1993" to pay for improvements to the nation's infrastructure. The "politics of raising the gas tax are nearly impossible," which is "why [President] Trump's intervention is crucial." Trump is "popular with the GOP base" and "could give cover to Republicans who understand the virtues of raising the gas tax but fear the political repercussions."

**"Erodgan Is Transforming Turkey Into A Totalitarian Prison."** A Washington Post (3/11) editorial says in Turkey, "a troubled democracy is being turned into a dictatorship. Gradually but inexorably, a nation that once aspired to be an exemplar of enlightened moderation is being transformed by [President Recep Tayyip] Erdogan into a dreary totalitarian prison." The Post argues that "Erdogan's dictatorship must be called out for what it is. Even if he covers his ears, the United States and other nations must protest, and loudly."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**"Cures Welcome At FDA."** A Wall Street Journal (3/11) editorial praises the FDA for welcoming innovation on Alzheimer's and other neurological conditions, and revamping its review process. , and few diseases have so eluded drug companies and researchers looking for a cure. The Journal says that while the real test will occur when the agency faces data on a drug that will require it to take a risk, the changes could mean that the drug approval process will be in a position to act quickly when a breakthrough Alzheimer's drug is developed.

**"A Not So Liddell Problem."** A Wall Street Journal (3/11) editorial criticizes the views of Christopher Liddell, who is said to be the leading contender to replace Gary Cohn as head of the National Economic Council. The Journal says Liddell is likely to do little to counter the growing influence of antitrade forces in the Administration and argues that the best thing that can be said about him is that he would be better than White House economic policy coordinator than Peter Navarro.

**"A Political Speech Crackdown."** A Wall Street Journal (3/11) takes

issue with the Honest Ads Act, legislation by Sens. Mark Warner, Amy Klobuchar, and John McCain that would impose disclaimer and reporting requirements on Internet platforms that allow paid political advertising, and impose penalties on the platforms if advertising from prohibited parties is run. The Journal says the legislation is potentially unconstitutional and argues that the appropriate response to foreign efforts to influence US elections is to focus on the foreign bad actors instead of infringing on the free speech rights of Americans.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[US Trading Partners Seek Guidance On Tariffs](#)

[Pennsylvania House Race Seen As A Test For Both Parties](#)

[Are You Underpaid? US Firms Reveal How Much They Pay Workers](#)

[Insurers Game Medicare System To Boost Federal Bonus Payments](#)

#### ***New York Times:***

[Saudis Said To Use Coercion And Abuse To Seize Billions](#)

[Five Are Dead After Copter Plunges Into River Off Manhattan](#)

[My Union Or My President? Dueling Loyalties Mark Pennsylvania Race](#)

[As Trump Seeks One Nuclear Deal, He Could Kill Another](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[His American Dream Died. His Town Got Over It.](#)

[Trump Retreats On Age For Guns](#)

[A Daughter's Balancing Act In A Roiling White House](#)

[For China's Catholics, Trying Times](#)

[Fertility Clinic Failures Put Many Hopes At Risk](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[Multinationals Pay Lower Taxes Than A Decade Ago](#)

[China Votes To Allow Xi Jinping To Rule For Life](#)

[Brazil Gets Tough In War On Crime In Rio's Slums](#)

[Saudi Aramco IPO Delayed Until 2019, UK Officials Told](#)

#### ***Washington Times:***

[Trump's Plan To Combat School Shootings Includes Federal Commission,](#)

[Review Of FBI Tip Line](#)

['Holy Cow': Democrats' Leaks On Russia Dossier Investigation Outrageous](#)

[To Republicans](#)

[No Word From North Korea On Kim's Proposed Meeting With Trump](#)

[Pennsylvania Democrat Avoids Mentioning Trump In Union District That](#)

[Supports Him](#)

[Trump Travel Question Only Adds To Drama For Summit Of The Americas](#)

[In Peru](#)

D.C. Republicans Work Quietly On Comeback In Democrat Stronghold

**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Trump-Pennsylvania Special Election; WH-North Korea; Severe Weather; Fertility Clinic Compromised; Florida-Human Remains; California-Veterans' Home Shooting; OJ Simpson Interview; Pennsylvania Missing High Schooler; Hiker Rescue; Cold Case Breakthrough; Pentagon-Declassified UFO Video; Building Demolition; Video Game Recovery.

**CBS:** WH-North Korea; Pennsylvania Special Election; North Korea-Strategy; China-Constitutional Amendment; Severe Weather; Texas-Mexico Border Human Smuggling; California-Homeless Eviction; Box Office News; Commuter Van Service; Opioid Epidemic; Anti-Intolerance Musician.

**NBC:** Students-School Safety; WH-North Korea; China-Constitutional Amendment; Severe Weather-South; Severe Weather-East; Fertility Clinic Compromised; Tariff Policy-Public Reaction; UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoning; Tiger Woods; Elon Musk-Mars Comment; Rescue Dog; Disabled Veteran Athlete.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

WH-North Korea – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Pennsylvania Special Election – 5 minutes

Severe Weather – 3 minutes, 15 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** NYC-Helicopter Crash; WH-School Safety; Severe Weather.

**CBS:** WH-North Korea; WH-School Safety; NYC-Helicopter Crash; Severe Weather; Elon Musk-Mars Comment; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** WH-School Safety; NYC-Helicopter Crash; WH-North Korea.

**NPR:** NYC-Helicopter Crash; WH-School Safety; WH-North Korea; UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoning.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

**PRESIDENT TRUMP** — Hosts the 2017 World Series Champion Houston Astros; has lunch with the Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

**VICE PRESIDENT PENCE** — Participates in a Great America Committee, Protect the House roundtable and lunch; participates in a Great America Committee, Protect the House dinner.

**US Senate:** 4:00 PM Senate resumes debate on Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act – Senate convenes and resumes consideration of 'S.2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act' \* The bill would roll back some of the regulations brought in by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC  
<http://www.senate.gov/>

5:45 PM Senate HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including nominations of John Ring to be a National Labor Relations Board member; Frank Brogan to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Elementary and Secondary Education; Dr Mark Schneider to be Institute of Education Science Director; and Marco Rajkovich to be a Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission member \*

Rescheduled from last week Location: U.S. Capitol, S-216, Washington, DC  
<http://help.senate.gov/>

**US House:** 9:30 AM House Oversight subcommittee field hearing on impacts of the 2017 hurricane season on the U.S. Virgin Islands – Interior, Energy, and Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'The Historic 2017 Hurricane Season: Impacts on the U.S. Virgin Islands' Location: Legislature of the Virgin Islands Capitol Building, St. Thomas  
<http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Veterans Affairs subcommittee field hearing on VA healthcare in Puerto Rico – Health Subcommittee field hearing on 'VA Healthcare: Maximizing Resources in Puerto Rico', with testimony from Puerto Rico State Director of Veterans' Affairs Agustin Montanez-Allman, and Secretary of Health Dr Rafael Rodriguez; Puerto Rico College of Physicians and Surgeons' Dr Victor Ramos; Veterans Health Administration VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8) Director Dr Miguel LaPuz, and VA Caribbean Healthcare System Acting Director Dr Antonio Sanchez; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Emergency Management & Resilience Lewis Ratchford Jr. + written statements from Paralyzed Veterans of America Puerto Rico Chapter; and Lift A Vet Location: Puerto Rico Capitol Building, San Juan <http://veterans.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives.

**Other:** 8:15 AM FMA National Convention and Management Training Seminar – Federal Managers Association National Convention and Management Training Seminar, themed 'Federal Managers – Leading from the Front'. Includes opening day keynote from Democratic Rep. Gerry Connolly Location: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, VA [www.fedmanagers.org](http://www.fedmanagers.org)

9:30 AM SNAP Task Force release recommendations at Bipartisan Policy Center – 'Leading with Nutrition: Leveraging SNAP for Better Health' Bipartisan Policy Center event, to release the recommendations of the bipartisan SNAP Task Force — led by former Senate Majority Leader Dr Bill Frist and former agriculture secretaries Dan Glickman and Ann Veneman – and discuss our proposals to improve nutrition in America. Includes keynote from Democratic Rep. Jimmy Panetta, remarks from Frist, Glickman and Veneman, and panel discussion with National Commission on Hunger Co-chair Mariana Chilton, former National Governors Association Executive Director Dan Crippen, Delaware Secretary of Health and Human Services Kara Odom Walker and former Indiana Secretary of Family and Social Services Administration John Wernert Location: Bipartisan Policy

Center, 1225 I St NW, Washington, DC [www.bipartisanpolicy.org](http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org)  
<https://twitter.com/BPC> Bipartisan

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

*John Oliver:* "Just time for a quick recap of the week. And we begin with the Trump White House where every morning Jared Kushner slams a door and yells, 'Oh yeah? Well, you don't have clearance to hear my secrets!'"

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-13T07:00:35-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 13, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-13T07:00:40-04:00

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 13, 2018 at 6:01:22 AM EDT  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018 6:00 AM EDT**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Associated Press: Interior Department Announces Civil Rights Grants.
- The Hill: Energy, Interior Chiefs To Defend Trump Budget.
- Reuters: U.S. States Slow Trump Offshore Oil Drilling Expansion Plan.
- Platts: US Interior Department To Begin ANWR Leasing Preparations.
- Huffington Post: Months Before Winning \$300 Million Puerto Rico Contract, Whitefish Energy Was On Shaky Financial Grounds.
- USA Today: Wildfire Risk Rises With 43 Million U.S. Homes Near Land Susceptible To Blazes.
- Associated Press: Trump Jr., Donor Have Longtime Undisclosed Ties.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- DOI Recognizes Nooksack Council Following Tribal Election.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: City Leaders Like Odds For BLM Move.
- Deseret (UT) News: BLM Sets Meetings On New Monument Management Plans.
- Great Falls (MT) Tribune: Disputed Montana Oil Lease To Be Heard In D.C. District Court.

- Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News: BLM To Work On Access Road To Picacho Peak Recreation Area.

#### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- Fish And Wildlife Commission Joins Call To Hold Bureau Of Reclamation Accountable For High Flows On Bighorn River.

#### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

- Investigation Report Into Subsea Jumper Leak.

#### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Winona (MN) Daily News: Refuge Proposes New Rules For Commercial Users On Upper Mississippi.
- Medford (OR) Mail Tribune: Groups Seek Protection For Rare Mountain Salamander.
- Oregonian: Oregon Refuge Occupier Joseph O'Shaughnessy Next To Face Sentencing.

#### **National Park Service**

- Washington Post: Cooler Temperatures Push Back Peak Bloom Date About A Week, Park Service Says.
- Auburn (NY) Citizen: Senate Committee OKs Gillibrand Bill To Study Designating Finger Lakes As National Heritage Area.
- Associated Press: Bison Protesters Banned From Yellowstone For 5 Years.
- St. George (UT) News: This Is The History Of The Zion Shuttle And Why It Was Remarkable For National Parks.
- Kaweah (CA) Commonwealth: Sequoia Seeks Input On Public Corrals Access.

#### **US Geological Survey**

- Forbes: Starving Science: A Shortsighted National Strategy.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- Commentary: What Lawmakers Have Done To Our Public Lands Is Monstrous.
- Don't Allow Beauty Of Our Pristine Lands To Be Stripped Away.
- Duncan: We Should Embrace Offshore Drilling.
- Additional Reading.

#### **Top National News**

- Reuters: Media Analyses: Trump Caves In To Gun Lobby.
- New York Times: Trump To Visit Border Wall Prototypes In California Today.
- CBS: Daniels Offers To Return \$130K Payment To End Non-Disclosure Agreement.
- Associated Press: Court: Administration Broke Law In Failing To Comply With Smog Rule Deadline.
- Washington Examiner: National Academies Endorse Climate Change Report.

#### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Wage Theft In Restaurants."
  - "Vladimir Putin's Toxic Reach."
  - "Democrats Can't Win If They Don't Run."



- Washington Post.
  - "Who's Afraid Of The NRA? Trump."
  - "Come To America, Mohammed Bin Salman. But Free These Activists First."
  - "Kellyanne Conway Broke The Law. The White House Shrugs."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "The National Security Tariff Ruse."
  - "All Of Putin's Poisons."
  - "You RIN Some, You Lose Some."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Interior Department Announces Civil Rights Grants.**

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that Interior Department announced "about \$12.6 million in African American Civil Rights Grants will go to 51 projects in 24 states." The article notes that four states in the Deep South are "getting nearly \$6 million to preserve sites and highlight stories related to the African-American struggle for equality in the 20th century." The Interior Department "says Alabama is getting \$2.3 million for nine projects, Mississippi is getting \$1.3 million for four projects, and Louisiana and Georgia will each get about \$1 million for four projects."

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that "Chicago will receive \$445,000 from the federal government to preserve a church on the city's West Side where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. frequently preached." In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says the grants will help offer a "more complete narrative of the African American experience in the pursuit of civil rights."

Additional coverage was provided by [Alabama Live](#) (3/12, Beahm), the [Bossier \(LA\) Press-Tribune](#) (3/12), and [WGNO-TV New Orleans](#) (3/12).

***Sixteenth Street Baptist Church Renovation Underway.*** [Alabama Live](#) (3/12, Garrison) reports that "Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, the site of a 1963 bombing that killed four girls, has been undergoing renovation thanks to a federal grant." The National Park Service "last year announced that the church was the recipient of a \$500,000 grant for preservation of the historic site, a National Historic Landmark."

#### **Energy, Interior Chiefs To Defend Trump Budget.**

[The Hill](#) (3/12, Green) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Energy Secretary Rick Perry will head "to Capitol Hill in the coming week to defend President Trump's fiscal 2019 budget request." Zinke and Perry "can expect tough questions from lawmakers on the sharp cuts proposed in

the fiscal blueprint when they testify on Tuesday and Thursday." Perry will go "before a House Appropriations subcommittee Thursday while Zinke will face lawmakers on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Tuesday and at the House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday."

E&E Daily (3/12) reports that "lawmakers, especially Democrats, will have no shortage of questions for Zinke, who in the last year has been extremely productive or destructive, depending on one's perspective." According to the article, "Zinke can expect a grilling from Republicans and Democrats over his proposal to open more than 90 percent of federal waters to potential oil and gas drilling, as well as questions over the cost of a reorganization that still hasn't been fully fleshed out." Zinke is also "likely to face inquiries over some department expenses, as well, including travel costs and \$139,000 worth of upgrades to doors in the secretarial suite."

### **U.S. States Slow Trump Offshore Oil Drilling Expansion Plan.**

Reuters (3/12, Resnick-Ault) reports the Trump Administration's plan to expand offshore drilling in the US "is moving slowly due to opposition from coastal states and indifference from oil companies that have turned their focus to other opportunities." According to the article, "governors from across the West Coast and much of the East Coast are meeting with the Interior and objecting to areas off their states for drilling." Discussions with states "could last through year end."

Politico (3/12, Muoio, French) reports that "in case efforts to exempt their states are unsuccessful, lawmakers in California, New York and New Jersey are pushing legislation that would make new offshore drilling in federal waters as difficult as possible." The article adds that "if or when the federal government ever gets to the point of issuing lease sales, states will have another opportunity to act against any planned offshore drilling." According to the article, "the federal Coastal Zone Management Act gives states joint authority over activities in coastal waters and there's a mechanism for them to object to federal actions, including oil and gas leases, that conflict with coastal management plans developed by the state."

### **US Interior Department To Begin ANWR Leasing Preparations.**

Platts (3/12, Mower) reports that the Interior Department "has begun preparations for oil and gas leasing in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and will use a new, streamlined procedure for its environmental review, a top Interior official said Monday." Joe Balash, DOI's assistant secretary for land and water management, said, "We expect to publish a Notice of Intent to begin an Environmental Impact Statement very soon. That will kick off a 60-day series of 'scoping' meetings, after which we begin preparation of the draft EIS."

E&E Publishing (3/12) reports that three months after Congress "used a controversial Republican tax reform plan to allow energy development on ANWR's northern plain, Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt outlined

the road map regulators will use to comply with myriad environmental laws governing oil development in Alaska." Last week, Bernhardt "said the Bureau of Land Management is poised to begin the initial scoping process for leasing in ANWR and plans to hold public meetings and open a 60-day comment period on the scoping proposal."

### **Months Before Winning \$300 Million Puerto Rico Contract, Whitefish Energy Was On Shaky Financial Grounds.**

The Huffington Post (3/12, Vardi) reports that "just over six months before winning a \$300 million contract to fix part of Puerto Rico's electrical grid, Whitefish Energy Holdings' finances were not strong, according to emails HuffPost received through an open records request." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "denied any involvement." However, Zinke's did "come up during the discussions about the transformer plant proposal." Heather Swift, Department of Interior's spokeswoman, reiterated that that Zinke did not have any involvement: "This is completely fake news. To suggest that the Congressman in any way advocated for or was involved in the project is absurd and flat out wrong. However, I expect nothing less from the fake news Huffington Post."

### **Wildfire Risk Rises With 43 Million U.S. Homes Near Land Susceptible To Blazes.**

USA Today (3/12, Rice) reports that "Americans are choosing to live in areas that are increasingly prone to devastating wildfires, a new study suggests." In all, "as of 2010, some 43 million homes were located in what scientists call the 'wildland-urban interface,' defined as the area where residential homes are built on or near wildland vegetation, such as trees and shrubs." The article says that "when combined with the threat of global warming, Americans choosing to live near forests is expected to lead to more severe wildfire seasons."

### **Trump Jr., Donor Have Longtime Undisclosed Ties.**

The AP (3/12, Pearson) reports records show Donald Trump Jr. "has a previously undisclosed business relationship with a longtime hunting buddy who helped raise millions of dollars for his father's 2016 presidential campaign and has had special access to top government officials since the election." The records show Trump Jr. "and Texas hedge fund manager Gentry Beach have been involved in business deals together dating back to the mid-2000s and recently formed a company, Future Venture LLC, despite past claims by both men that they were just friends." The AP says Beach in 2017 "met with top National Security Council officials to push a plan that would curb US sanctions in Venezuela and open up business for" American firms there. The AP says that "seven months after the Venezuela meetings, Beach attended a private lunch in Dallas between Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Republican donors, including businessmen with petroleum interests, according to a copy of Zinke's schedule." The AP adds,

"Ethics experts said their financial entanglements raised questions about whether Beach's access to government officials and advocacy for policy changes were made possible by" Trump Jr.'s "influence – and could also benefit the Trump family's bottom line."

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **DOI Recognizes Nooksack Council Following Tribal Election.**

Law360 (3/12, Powell) reports that "the Nooksack Indian Tribe on Friday announced that the U.S. Department of the Interior has reinstated recognition of its leadership in the wake of a December special tribal election." In a letter, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs John Tahsuda "recognized the validity of the Nooksack tribal council, which is comprised of four members who were elected in the December vote and four who were elected in 2014."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **City Leaders Like Odds For BLM Move.**

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (3/12, Harmon) reports that Mesa County commissioners want the "support from the state's congressional delegation" to bring the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management to the Grand Valley. Commissioner Rose Pugliese said, "We need our delegation as much as ever to advocate for us." Pugliese and Commissioner John Justman "recently attended a White House conference for Colorado county commissioners, learning that the prospect of moving the land-management agency to Grand Junction has support from within the state."

### **BLM Sets Meetings On New Monument Management Plans.**

The Deseret (UT) News (3/12, O'Donoghue) reports that the Bureau of Land Management will "host four meetings to give the public a chance to weigh in on new management plans being crafted for the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments." In all, "the process involves developing six land use plans and two associated environmental impact statements that cover 2.1 million acres of federal land in San Juan, Garfield and Kane counties."

Additional coverage was provided by the St. George (UT) News (3/12).

### **Disputed Montana Oil Lease To Be Heard In D.C. District Court.**

The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (3/12, Puckett) reports that "a disputed oil lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Montana will be the focus of a court hearing in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday." In March 2016, the federal government "canceled the lease held by Solonex LLC of Louisiana, citing the area's cultural and religious significance to the Blackfoot Tribe and lack of consultation with tribal officials on potential impacts prior to the

issuance of the lease." Solonex is "suing the government arguing the lease cancellation was illegal."

### **BLM To Work On Access Road To Picacho Peak Recreation Area.**

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/12) reports that the Bureau of Land Management this week will start "work to repair and improve the 1.5-mile unpaved road to the Picacho Peak Recreation Area." The BLM "announced in a news release that public access to the site may be restricted at times." However, the agency "said it plans to provide access throughout most of the project, which may take up to six weeks to complete."

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Fish And Wildlife Commission Joins Call To Hold Bureau Of Reclamation Accountable For High Flows On Bighorn River.**

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/12, French) reports that the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has "added its voice to the chorus of Montana anglers calling for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to make adjustments to reduce high flows from Yellowtail Dam into the Bighorn River." The commission on Monday "voted 3-0 to support a draft letter asking that 'the Bureau of Reclamation ... recognize the harm being caused to river users, businesses and landowners as a result of its management procedures and ask it to take immediate corrective action.'"

### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

---

### **Investigation Report Into Subsea Jumper Leak.**

[Marine Technology](#) (3/12, Fonseca) reports that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) has released "the panel investigation report on the May 11, 2016 subsea jumper leak on a platform operated by Shell Offshore, Inc." The leak from Green Canyon Block 248 resulted "in an estimated release of 1,926 barrels of oil." The BSEE investigation panel "concluded that the loss of containment in the Glider subsea system was caused by the ductile tensile overload fracture of the Load Limiting Joint of the Glider #4 jumper."

[World Oil](#) (3/12) also reports.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

### **Refuge Proposes New Rules For Commercial Users On Upper Mississippi.**

The [Winona \(MN\) Daily News](#) (3/12, Hubbuch) reports that "federal wildlife officials are proposing a revised set of rules for guides and others who make a living on the Upper Mississippi River." Draft rules released Friday by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would "impose new fee schedules but limit the amount of money collected from fishing floats and commercial hunting, fishing and wildlife guides."

### **Groups Seek Protection For Rare Mountain Salamander.**

The [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (3/12, Freeman) reports that "conservation groups Monday petitioned the government to list the rare Siskiyou Mountains salamander under the federal Endangered Species Act, claiming federal land managers' apparent renegeing on old 'look before you log' provisions in potential future logging sales imperil the rare forest amphibian." Groups "formally asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the pockets of known populations of the salamander in Southern Oregon and Northern California as either threatened or endangered." However, the Bureau of Land Management "maintains that its new resource plan guiding management of its Western Oregon lands still focuses on salamander protections at high-profile areas as it has for more than a decade."

### **Oregon Refuge Occupier Joseph O'Shaughnessy Next To Face Sentencing.**

The [Oregonian](#) (3/12, Bernstein) reports that Joseph O'Shaughnessy is "expected to be sentenced Thursday to time served with supervised release for his role in the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge." O'Shaughnessy "pleaded guilty in the 2016 refuge case and then awaited trial in the 2014 standoff near Nevada cattleman Cliven Bundy's ranch before he was released in December." According to the article, "he spent a total of year and nine months in custody for both cases." O'Shaughnessy's attorney and federal prosecutors will "jointly recommend the time served as his punishment in the Malheur case."

### **National Park Service**

---

### **Cooler Temperatures Push Back Peak Bloom Date About A Week, Park Service Says.**

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Chiu) reports that Washington DC's "cherry blossoms are expected to reach peak bloom between March 27 and March 31, about a week later than initially predicted, the National Park Service announced Monday." According to Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the Park Service, "cooler temperatures have kept the cherry blossoms from progressing out of the green bud phase, the first of six phases leading to peak bloom." The initial forecast was "announced March 1 and predicted that the peak bloom date would fall between March 17 and March 20."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (3/13), the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Samenow), [Washingtonian Magazine \(DC\)](#) (3/12, Freed), [WUSA-TV Washington](#) (3/12), and [WRC-TV Washington](#) (3/12, Swalec, Jones).

### **Senate Committee OKs Gillibrand Bill To Study Designating Finger Lakes As National Heritage Area.**

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (3/12, Harding) reports that Sen. Kirsten

Gillibrand's "bill to study designating the Finger Lakes region as a national heritage area has cleared its first legislative hurdle." The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved the measure "to conduct a feasibility study in Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca and 11 other counties in the Finger Lakes region." The study would "determine whether the Finger Lakes region should be designated as a national heritage area."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Ithaca \(NY\) Times](#) (3/12, Reynolds).

### **Bison Protesters Banned From Yellowstone For 5 Years.**

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that "three people who were arrested while protesting the slaughter of bison near Yellowstone National Park have pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges and are banned from the park for 5 years." Hannah Ponder, Cody Cyson, and Thomas Brown "appeared in U.S. District Court in Mammoth Hot Springs on Monday." All three are members of an advocacy group called Wild Buffalo Defense and "had been jailed since their arrest last Tuesday near the park's Stephens Creek Capture Facility."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (3/12, Wright).

### **This Is The History Of The Zion Shuttle And Why It Was Remarkable For National Parks.**

Today It's Overburdened. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (3/11, Wadsworth) provided an overview of the history of the Zion National Park transportation system, which debuted on May 26, 2000. According to the article, "when the shuttle started, it was a lifesaver and nearly universally applauded – a way to protect the park's resources as well as to improve the visitor experience." Today, "it sadly is inadequate, but the park would be chaos without it."

### **Sequoia Seeks Input On Public Corrals Access.**

The [Kaweah \(CA\) Commonwealth](#) (3/9, Elliott) reports that the National Park Service is "proposing the conversion of two existing corrals to visitor stock-use facilities at Wolverton and Mineral King in Sequoia National Park." The projects are intended to "increase overnight front-country stock facilities to accommodate equestrian access to park trails and wilderness." Sequoia National Park is seeking the public comments on the proposal.

### **US Geological Survey**

#### **Starving Science: A Shortsighted National Strategy.**

[Forbes](#) (3/12, Salzberg) reports that "for reasons that are at best mysterious," the U.S. Geological Survey is "planning to eliminate the Biological Survey Unit." The unit, which manages "one of the most extensive collections of animal specimens in the world," has "a very small

budget, a mere \$1.6 million out of the USGS's budget of \$1.1 billion, and an even tinier fraction of the country's \$4.4 trillion budget." According to the article, "shutting down the Biological Survey Unit won't save enough money in the vast government budget to even be noticed, but the loss of its precious collections will reverberate through the decades."

## **Opinion Pieces**

---

### **Commentary: What Lawmakers Have Done To Our Public Lands Is Monstrous.**

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/10, Ghorbani), Shireen Ghorbani, a Democrat running for U.S. Congress in Utah's 2nd District, writes that protections for public lands are "being stripped away by those who will profit the most." Ghorbani is running "to unseat Rep. Chris Stewart, one of the architects of destruction of our national monuments, including Grand Staircase Escalante, which is situated fully inside this congressional district." Contrasting herself with Stewart, Ghorbani asserts that she does "not stand to gain financially from the sell-off of our lands," and stresses that she does "not believe that our shared American heritage of these public and wild spaces should be sold off to serve the interests of the few."

### **Don't Allow Beauty Of Our Pristine Lands To Be Stripped Away.**

In an op-ed for the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (3/12, Stevenson), actress, author and conservationist Karen Aspevig Stevenson warns that the Terry Badlands and Natural Bridges is "now in jeopardy of being open to industrial development and expanded motorized use." According to Stevenson, "without holding one public meeting to discuss his proposal, Congressman Greg Gianforte introduced a bill on March 2 that strips protection from the Terry Badlands and 23 other wilderness study areas totaling nearly 370,000 acres." Gianforte "also introduced a companion bill to Sen. Steve Daines' S.2206, which would strip protection from the Big Snowies, Middle Fork Judith, West Pioneers, Blue Joint, and Sapphires Wilderness Study Areas – nearly a half million acres in all." Stevenson notes that "taken together, these two bills Rep. Gianforte introduced would represent the largest rollback of protected public land in Montana's history."

### **Duncan: We Should Embrace Offshore Drilling.**

In an op-ed for the [Spartanburg \(SC\) Herald-Journal](#) (3/13, Duncan), Rep. Jeff Duncan supports the Trump Administration's five-year offshore energy leasing plan. Duncan argues the plan "puts the U.S. on the track toward greater energy independence, high-paying jobs, lower energy prices and substantial economic growth." Furthermore, he writes that "safety is a top priority for the U.S. natural gas and oil industry, which works constantly to improve safety in the workplace through ongoing research, standards development, training and information sharing."



### Additional Reading.

- *Should Some Species Be Allowed To Die Out?* [New York Times](#) (3/13, Kahn).
- *We Can Stop The Poaching Of Big Cats. Here's How.* [New York Times](#) (3/12, Launay, Scanlon).
- *Our View: We Won't Let Animal Cruelty Get Brushed Under The Rug.* [Moscow-Pullman \(ID\) Daily News](#) (3/13, Boston).
- *Yellowstone Specialists Monitor, Preserve Hydrothermal Features.* [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/12, Hosseini, Hungerford).
- *Guest View: Gianforte Backs Bill That Endangers Monuments.* [Montana Standard](#) (3/12, Burglund, Miller).
- *Why Trump's California Visit Should Include SLO County.* [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (3/12).
- *Move BLM Leadership To The West? Good Idea, Let's Move Ahead With It.* [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/13).

### Top National News

---

#### Media Analyses: Trump Caves In To Gun Lobby.

Media analyses were not kind to the President's gun and school safety proposals, and cast them as evidence of him caving in to NRA pressure. In particular, reports bemoan the fact that Trump is not calling for raising the minimum age for gun purchases – a course of action which, [Reuters](#) (3/12, Rampton, Chiacu) reports, "he had supported after the latest US school shooting." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/12, story 5, 2:35, Muir), for example, said last night that "the President seems to have caved entirely to the gun lobby," [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/12, story 4, 1:50, Holt) that he "appears to be bending to the NRA," the [AP](#) (3/12, Lucey, Lemire) that he "backpedaled from his earlier demands for sweeping reforms and bowed to Washington reality," [AFP](#) (3/12, Handley) that he "stood accused...of caving in to the US gun lobby," and [CNN](#) (3/12, Fox) that he "has finally outlined exactly what he wants to see from Congress on guns, and it's not much."

[Politico](#) (3/12, Nelson) points out that "before conceding on raising the age limit for the purchase of certain guns, Trump had publicly chided members of his own party, telling GOP lawmakers at a White House meeting that they were 'afraid of the NRA.'" But to the [New York Times](#) (3/12, Shear, Stolberg), "Trump has abandoned his live-on-television promise" and is "instead bowing" to the NRA "and embracing its agenda." The Times later adds that "from Capitol Hill to the White House, the NRA still calls the shots." [USA Today](#) (3/12, King) says "Trump's decision to hold off on proposing an increase in the minimum age to buy any gun from 18 to 21 – after initially voicing his strong support – shouldn't come as a shock from someone prone to public zigzagging," and the [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/12) similarly asks in an editorial, "Is anyone surprised by...Trump's

turnabout? Probably not. ... The president's gun control advocacy was fake news all along." Chris Cillizza, meanwhile, wrote a piece for [CNN](#) (3/12) titled "Know Who's Afraid Of The NRA? Donald Trump." The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Board) uses almost the identical headline in its editorial, "Who's Afraid Of The NRA? Trump." the Post says "once again Mr. Trump's brave words prove to be meaningless," and argues the President "seems not to understand that gun violence is not limited to schools, nor that mass shootings are but one part of a problem that also includes too many lives lost to domestic killings, suicides and unintentional shootings."

Trump defended his proposals on Twitter, and the [AP](#) (3/12, Lucey, Lemire) describes him as "seemingly on the defensive after his about-face." Trump [wrote](#), "Very strong improvement and strengthening of background checks will be fully backed by White House. Legislation moving forward. Bump Stocks will soon be out. Highly trained expert teachers will be allowed to conceal carry, subject to State Law. Armed guards OK, deterrent!" Trump [added](#), "On 18 to 21 Age Limits, watching court cases and rulings before acting. States are making this decision. Things are moving rapidly on this, but not much political support (to put it mildly)." He also reiterated that "if schools are mandated to be gun free zones, violence and danger are given an open invitation to enter. Almost all school shootings are in gun free zones. Cowards will only go where there is no deterrent!"

As [CNN](#) (3/12, Diamond, Malloy) reported, the White House "insisted" Monday that "Trump hasn't entirely abandoned the idea of raising the minimum age for purchasing guns," with Press Secretary Sarah Sanders saying "'the door isn't closed' on a White House push for raising the age of gun purchases to 21 at the federal level." [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/12, story 4, 1:50, Holt) showed Sanders saying, "He hasn't backed away from these things at all. They're still outlined in the plan, but he can't make them happen with a broad stroke of the pen." [The Hill](#) (3/12, Easley) notes Sanders "made the case that Trump is focusing first on proposals that have 'broad bipartisan support' or that could be accomplished 'immediately' through the regulatory process or federal action," and "insisted that the president still supports raising age limits on gun purchases and expanding background checks." To the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Borchers), "Sanders did her best on Monday to argue that...Trump is not backing down but rather prioritizing on gun control."

In an editorial, the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (3/12) refers to "a disappointing plan," and the [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (3/12, Blair) reports that "Sen. Chris Murphy is an author of 'Fix NICS,' the legislation to close gaps in the gun background check system that the White House offered support for, but like others he criticized the administration's move toward arming teachers." [Tweeted](#) Murphy, "If more guns = less gun deaths, America would have the lowest gun violence rate in the world. Guess what? That not how it works." Murphy later [added](#), "My day: First, Trump and Republicans handed over the keys to the school violence debate to the gun

industry. Second, my 6 yr old was locked in a tiny bathroom w his 24 classmates for their active shooter drill. 'I didn't like it, Daddy' he said. Sleep well tonight, colleagues."

☒ [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/12, story 5, 2:35, Muir) reported that Sen. Dianne Feinstein, "who sat right next to the President" during his White House listening session on school violence "and seemed pleased with what he said back then, looks at this new proposal and calls it 'a shameful abdication of President's responsibility to lead,' adding, 'shame on you, Mr. President.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Boyer) reports "gun-control groups" are also "criticizing the president's plan as weak, and say it shows that Mr. Trump didn't want to anger the NRA." Said Avery Gardiner, co-president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, "Americans expecting real leadership to prevent gun violence will be disappointed and troubled by...Trump's dangerous retreat from his promise to break the Washington gridlock around gun violence and to stand up to the NRA." John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety, called the plan "a complete failure of leadership."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (3/12) says Trump's plan "is chock-a-block with ideas, some worthwhile (strengthening background checks and restraining orders) and some half-baked (arming teachers)." But "most conspicuously absent is any call for banning semiautomatic assault weapons," and "another" is "freeing scientists to explore the causes of, and uncover the solutions for, a shooting epidemic that kills 35,000 Americans every year." Chris W. Cox, executive director of the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action, responds in [USA Today](#) (3/12) that "the NRA fully supports research, both private and public, which examines the root causes of violence in our communities. What we do not support is using tax dollars to promote gun control." Adds Cox, "The problem is not funding restriction, but researchers who are unable to drop their anti-gun bias long enough to examine this issue objectively."

***DeVos Defends Administration Plans On Morning TV Shows.*** Education Secretary DeVos, asked on ☒ [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (3/12) if the ultimate goal is to "harden the schools," said, "That's one of the opportunities we have and one of the responsibilities we have, frankly. We have many other venues in our country that are kept safe and schools have to be a part of that equation as well. And, every state and every community is going to do this slightly differently, but we are going to advance ways in which schools can be made safer for students and which works for each community and for each state." DeVos added that "there are pieces of legislation before Congress today that can take significant steps in the right direction. Background checks, the Stop Violence Act. They have broad bipartisan support. And the President wants to see Congress act now, take these steps today and then let's look at what we can do as next steps beyond that."

Asked on ☒ [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) why the school safety proposal

does not include raising the age to by "assault-style" weapons from 18 to 21 since the President specifically said he supported it, DeVos said, "The plan is a first step in a more lengthy process. And the proposals that the President has put forward really encompass a lot of things that are supported on a broad bipartisan basis." Asked again why it is not included in the proposal given the President professed support, DeVos said, "Everything is on the table. And the commission that is being formed that I will lead, is looking at this issue, along with a number of other issues. The point being that we have to get much broader than just talking about guns and a gun issue, where camps go into their corners."

DeVos was asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) about the idea of arming teachers. Asked, "What percentage of teachers at schools would need to be armed in your mind to be effective," DeVos said, "I don't have a percentage. It should be those who are capable and qualified and only in place where's it's appropriate." Asked if there would be an armed teacher in every classroom, DeVos said, "I don't think that would be appropriate. And I don't think anybody would agree that would be." DeVos added, "This is an issue that is best decided by local communities and by states. It is not going to be appropriate in every location. But it is going to be appropriate in some places, like Texas has determined and Polk County, Florida has determined."

***Trump Commission Will Weigh Repealing Obama School Discipline Rules.*** The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Boyer) reports that "Trump's new federal commission on school safety will consider repealing an Obama administration policy that discourages expelling or suspending unruly students due to concerns that such disciplinary actions unfairly target minorities." The Obama-era directive "advised school districts that disciplinary policies could constitute 'unlawful discrimination' under federal civil rights law if they resulted in a 'disproportionate and unjustified effect on students of a particular race.'"

***DOJ Also Unveils School Safety Proposals.*** [USA Today](#) (3/13, Icsman) reports DOJ "announced Monday its plans to prioritize giving grants to local and state law enforcement agencies that plan to hire more officers in an attempt to improve school safety." Attorney General Sessions said in a statement, "No child should have to fear going to school or walking the streets of their neighborhood. ... Today, I am directing the Department of Justice to take a number of new steps that will help make schools and the American people safer from the threat of gun violence." Sessions "will also encourage each state to make sure local law enforcement is reporting to state-run databases that the FBI accesses during background checks. Right now, reporting that information is voluntary on the part of states."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Mordock) says Sessions' "proposals include holding federal agencies accountable for failing to update the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; ordering the FBI to identify states that are not reporting arrests to state databases and more aggressive prosecution of individuals who lie on gun applications." Said

Sessions, in a letter to FBI Director Wray, "It is essential that relevant mental health determinations by state and local officers are accessible to the NICS system. ... We cannot allow an individual who is prohibited from possessing firearms to pass a background check simply because the information was not made available to you." Sessions also "sent a letter to US Attorneys across the country demanding 'swift and aggressive' prosecution of people who lie on their firearm applications."

Politico (3/12, Gerstein) reports DOJ is also "offering up to \$1 million in emergency grant funding to Broward County and other jurisdictions that responded to the shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida, last month."

The Washington Examiner (3/13, Cohen) reports DOJ also "reiterated that it has submitted a proposed regulation to the Office of Management and Budget that would 'effectively ban the manufacture, sale or possession' of bump stocks – an announcement made Saturday." However, says the Washington Post (3/12, Horwitz), "neither the Justice Department initiatives nor Trump's plan contain significant proposals to change gun laws. Instead, Sessions's actions enhance existing programs and call for more aggressively enforcing current law."

***Breitbart: White House Backs "California-Style Firearm Confiscation Orders."*** Breitbart (3/12, Hawkins) reports "the Trump White House released policy papers Monday declaring full support for California-style firearm confiscation orders." Breitbart News "has a copy of the release and it urges states to adopt Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs). Such orders allow firearms to be confiscated with a judge's approval." The White House "suggests that ERPOs 'allow law enforcement, with approval from a court, to remove firearms from individuals who are a demonstrated threat to themselves or others and temporarily to prevent individuals from purchasing new firearms.'" They "stressed that the orders 'should be carefully tailored to ensure the due process rights of law-abiding citizens are protected.'"

***WPost Analysis Examines Armed Staff In Ohio Schools.*** The Washington Post (3/12, Heim) reports from Riverside, OH that 32 safes were installed last summer "spread out among the four elementary schools, the two middle schools, the high school and the administration building of the Mad River Local Schools district...on the outskirts of Dayton," and on August 14, "the first day of school for the district's 3,900 students, each safe contained the centerpiece of the district's new security plan: a semiautomatic pistol and a removable magazine loaded with bullets." The weapons, "paid for with money from the district's operating budget, are for teachers and staffers who have volunteered and trained to be part of the school's response team if a shooter enters a building." The Post adds that "in 10 states, schools allow teachers and staff members to be armed, with administrators' permission," and that "after the shooting that took 17 lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida last month, pressure is increasing to expand that approach."

***Author Warns Of Link Between Mental Illness And Violence.*** In an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/12), author DJ Jaffe writes that the US mental health "system often prevents relatives from getting help for loved ones who have serious mental illness until after they have become a danger to themselves or others." All "too often this means after someone – often a family member – is injured or killed." Jaffe makes a list of six suggestions "to save lives and help families get their...loved ones" with mental illness "the treatment they need." Jaffe concludes that "denial of the association between serious mental illness and violence may be politically correct and well-intended," but "too often, it ends in tragedies such as the Parkland shooting – and another scramble for answers we already have."

***Sculptor Denounces NRA After His Work Appears In Video.*** Washington Post (3/12, Kennicott) art critic Philip Kennicott writes that after his piece Cloud Gate briefly appeared in an NRA video, sculptor Anish Kapoor "condemned 'the NRA's nightmarish, intolerant, divisive vision' that 'perverts everything that Cloud Gate – and America – stands for.'" Kapoor, who "holds copyright over the commercial use of images of Cloud Gate," has "fought and failed to force" the NRA to remove it from the video.

### **Trump To Visit Border Wall Prototypes In California Today.**

The New York Times (3/12, Nagourney, Arango) reports that President Trump will pay a brief visit Tuesday morning to California, a state "the White House presumably views as enemy territory." In San Diego, Trump will view prototypes for the border wall, "before speaking to troops at a nearby military base" and then "heading to Beverly Hills for a high-roller Republican fund-raiser before flying back to Washington on Wednesday morning." Trump has no plans to meet with California leaders, "or tour any part of the state outside that stretch along the border." The Times says California "now looms as prime territory for Democrats seeking to retake Congress next year," with at least seven GOP seats seen "as vulnerable, many of them located right near where Mr. Trump will be touching down." Republican strategists have advised candidates "to distance themselves from the president; a key question on Tuesday will be which, if any, Republican members of Congress will appear in public with the president." Reuters (3/12) cites "[a] party official" who said Trump will raise about \$5 million for his reelection campaign and the RNC at Tuesday's fundraiser.

The Washington Post (3/12, Wagner) says Trump's visit "invited scorn Monday from leading Democrats here who have sought through legislation and lawsuits to fight an array of Trump policies, ranging from immigration to offshore drilling to health-care access." California Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León, said, "This visit is a political stunt to rally his base around a stupid boondoggle."

The Los Angeles Times (3/12, Winton) says "law enforcement will be ratcheting up in preparation for potential protests." A "protest is planned in the Beverly Hills area between 4 and 8 p.m. Tuesday by a Facebook group,

Trump Not Welcome in LA. The LAPD is preparing for many more protests of various sizes on the Westside."

The New York Times (3/12, Williamson) highlights some of the proposals that were not chosen to construct a prototype.

**AP: Migrant Workers Still Flowing Into California From Mexico.** The AP (3/12, Spagat) says that while Trump "made 'a big, beautiful wall' a centerpiece of his campaign and said Mexico would pay for it," border barriers "extend the same 654 miles (1,046 kilometers) they did under President Barack Obama and so far Trump hasn't gotten Mexico or Congress to pay for a new wall." Trump's "tough talk on border and immigration policy...hasn't stopped the daily migration of hundreds of Mexican workers into California's Imperial Valley. Farmers there say the workers are vital to the region's vegetable harvest."

**CIS Analysis: Wall Could Pay For Itself With Savings From Welfare Payments.** The Daily Caller (3/12, Racke) says the wall "could end up paying for itself by saving the US treasury billions in welfare payments." According to Steven Camarota, the research director at the Center for Immigration Studies, with costs estimates for the wall ranging "from \$18 to \$25 billion," if the wall "cut an expected 1.7 million illegal crossings by 200,000 – about 12 percent – over a decade, it would pay for itself in fiscal savings from welfare, public education, tax credits and other benefits available to low-income, illegal immigrants from Mexico and Central America." If the wall "stopped 50 percent of those expected crossings in the next 10 years, it would save \$64 billion – nearly four times the cost of the wall – in welfare and social spending alone."

### **Daniels Offers To Return \$130K Payment To End Non-Disclosure Agreement.**

On the CBS Evening News (3/12, story 6, 2:05), Jeff Glor reported, "The adult film actress who claims she had an affair with President Trump wants to make a deal." Stormy Daniels, whose given name is Stephanie Clifford, is "offering to give up the money she got paid to keep quiet so she can tell her story." CBS' Julianna Goldman added that Daniels has "made an offer to Mr. Trump – she'll pay him \$130,000, the same amount she received in 2016 from his personal attorney Michael Cohen, in exchange for being allowed to speak openly and freely about their relationship. She also wants the ability to publish any text messages, photos, and/or videos relating to the President she may have, all without fear of legal action."

On ABC World News Tonight (3/12, story 7, 1:55, Muir), Tom Llamas reported that Daniels attorney Michael Avenatti "says the President has until noon [Tuesday] to accept the offer. This latest move, another attempt by Daniels to prove the President, who has denied the affair, is trying to shut her up. Daniels' lawyer has already argued the agreement signed 11 days before the election is null and void, because then-candidate Trump didn't sign it." Avenatti was shown saying in an interview that Daniels is "not trying to sell her story. It's important to her because the

amount of misinformation that has been put out in the press and the media, especially over the last six weeks. And Mr. Cohen and others associated with Mr. Cohen are directly responsible for that misinformation. And she wants to set the record straight."

In a brief segment, NBC Nightly News (3/12, story 5, 0:20, Holt) reported that "the White House is not commenting on" the offer. The New York Times (3/12, Rutenberg) reports that in a Monday letter to Cohen, Avenatti "wrote that Ms. Clifford would wire the money into an account of Mr. Trump's choosing by Friday. Mr. Avenatti set a deadline of noon Tuesday for Mr. Cohen to answer the offer." The Times adds, "Under the terms of the deal detailed in the letter...the contract ensuring Ms. Clifford's silence would be 'deemed null and void' once she returned the sum called for in her original contract."

Politico (3/12, Woellert) reported that in the letter, "Daniels also offered to drop a lawsuit filed March 6 in which she claims the agreement is invalid because Trump never signed it." Politico quoted Avenatti as writing in the letter, "In the event this offer is not accepted in a writing delivered to me on or before that date and time, the offer shall automatically be deemed withdrawn in its entirety and shall be null and void." The Wall Street Journal (3/12, Rothfeld, Palazzolo) also reports on Daniels' offer.

***USA Today Analysis: Possible "Legal Risk" To Trump, Cohen Over Payment.*** Meanwhile, in a report focusing on the \$130,000 payment to Daniels, USA Today (3/12, Schouten) offers "a look at the some of the potential areas of legal risk for Trump and...Cohen." For example, USA Today says, "Under federal law, an individual could not donate more than \$2,700 directly to Trump's primary or general election campaign in 2016. A \$130,000 payment would far exceed that limit." However, "investigators would have to weigh whether the payment" made by Cohen "was, indeed, about influencing the election. In her lawsuit, Daniels says it was."

### **Court: Administration Broke Law In Failing To Comply With Smog Rule Deadline.**

The AP (3/12) reports "a federal judge says the Trump administration violated federal law when it failed to meet a deadline to identify all parts of the US with dangerous smog levels." US District Judge Haywood Gilliam yesterday ordered the EPA "to complete the designations by the end of April." The Daily Caller (3/12, Bastasch) calls the ruling "a setback for the Trump administration's deregulatory agenda but probably only a small one."

### **National Academies Endorse Climate Change Report.**

The Washington Examiner (3/12, Siciliano) reports the National Academies of Sciences yesterday "gave a thumbs up to a congressionally mandated report on climate change, which scientists had feared would be suppressed by the Trump administration." The National Academies' "committee that reviewed the draft of the Fourth National Climate Assessment said it was



'impressed by the accuracy of information and thorough discussion of the predominant aspects of climate change and impacts presented in the draft,' according to a summary of the committee's findings."

The Washington Post (3/12, Mooney) casts the development as "suggesting that another key government document could soon emerge that contradicts President Trump's skepticism about climate change and humans' role in driving it." To the Post, "the process highlights how despite the changing political context – and even hints that the Trump administration may try to subject federal climate science to additional, adversarial reviews – technical government studies of climate science continue." The report "says US temperatures will rise markedly in coming decades, accompanied by many other attendant effects," and "predicts that Northeastern fisheries will be stressed by warmer ocean waters, that the Southeast will suffer from worsening water shortages, that worse extreme-weather events will tax water and other types of infrastructure, and far more."

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

#### **New York Times.**

**"Wage Theft In Restaurants."** The New York Times (3/12) says in an editorial that New York should become the eighth state to end "the unjust policy of letting employers pay waiters, bartenders and other tipped workers less than the minimum wage." In much of the US, the Times writes, "tipped workers live in a parallel universe as far as labor law is concerned," with employers permitted to pay them "as little as \$2.13 per hour – a rate that has not changed since 1991 – as long as their hourly wages plus tips add up to \$7.25 an hour. This discrepancy hurts workers by putting them at greater risk of wage theft, sexual harassment and other workplace exploitation – bosses can easily withhold or steal tips, especially from workers they don't like or who refuse their propositions."

**"Vladimir Putin's Toxic Reach."** The New York Times (3/12) editorializes that unlike the 2006 murder of Alexander Litvinenko, in the attack on a former Russian spy and his daughter, "the blame has been made clearer...and this attack on a NATO ally needs a powerful response both from that organization and, perhaps more important, by the United States." While British Prime Minister Theresa May said her government "was drawing up a full range of retaliatory options" that could range from "expelling some Russian diplomats...to stronger sanctions," the Times says Russia "probably doesn't much worry about diplomatic expulsions, and British sanctions would add little to the broad range of Western sanctions already in place over the annexation of Crimea."

**"Democrats Can't Win If They Don't Run."** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/12) says that no matter the outcome of today's contest in PA-18, Conor Lamb "has already accomplished something impressive by showing that his party ought to contest every election – no matter how daunting the odds." The Times says the Democratic Party "did not bother fielding

candidates during the 2016 and 2014 elections” in the PA18, where “recent polls show Mr. Lamb could narrowly win.” The Times adds, “For many years, Democrats seemed to narrow their vision and ambitions, losing hundreds of legislative seats, governorships and other political races. Mr. Lamb’s campaign shows that the party can and must expand its horizons.”

### **Washington Post.**

**“Who’s Afraid Of The NRA? Trump.”** The Washington Post (3/12, Board) says in an editorial that “once again Mr. Trump’s brave words prove to be meaningless,” and argues the President “seems not to understand that gun violence is not limited to schools, nor that mass shootings are but one part of a problem that also includes too many lives lost to domestic killings, suicides and unintentional shootings.”

**“Come To America, Mohammed Bin Salman. But Free These Activists First.”** The Washington Post (3/12) editorializes that before the Crown Prince visits Washington next week, Saudi Arabia should release “some of the dozens of political prisoners who were jailed for advocating some of the very reforms he is attempting to advance.”

**“Kellyanne Conway Broke The Law. The White House Shrugs.”** The Washington Post (3/12) editorializes that “Kellyanne Conway ran afoul of ethics rules when she urged the president’s supporters to buy products under his daughter’s brand.” While “the White House said she was being provided with additional ethics training and recurrence was ‘highly unlikely,’” critics “thought stronger disciplinary action should have been taken.” The Post adds that “unfortunately, it’s not clear the training did much good, as the Office of Special Counsel made clear recently in finding Ms. Conway in violation of federal law barring the mixing of partisan politics with official government business.” And “more troubling than the latest violation was the White House’s refusal to do anything about it or even acknowledge it.”

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**“The National Security Tariff Ruse.”** The Wall Street Journal (3/12) says in an editorial that the Trump Administration is wrong to cite national security to justify its new tariffs on steel and aluminum, writing that even Pentagon officials seem unconvinced. The Journal says the White House invoked Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 because it gives a president power to act unilaterally, but that the Administration has not made its case.

**“All Of Putin’s Poisons.”** The Wall Street Journal (3/12) editorializes that if Britain takes action against Russia for the chemical attack on a former Russian spy and his daughter, the rest of the world should follow.

**“You RIN Some, You Lose Some.”** The Wall Street Journal (3/12) says in an editorial that the federal government should never have distorted the energy market by introducing subsidies and mandates to support biofuels, but since it has done so, it should at least offer relief for independent

refiners that lack the means to blend fuel and are therefore forced to purchase compliance credits.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[Trump Blocks Chip Deal By Broadcom On Security Concerns](#)  
[Republicans On House Panel Find No Collusion Between Russia And Trump Campaign](#)  
[Goldman Pushes Past Trading Roots With Executive Shift](#)  
[UK's May: Moscow "Highly Likely" Behind Skripal Poisoning](#)

#### ***New York Times:***

[Helicopter's Safety Harnesses Became Deathtrap In Crash](#)  
[Citing Security Risk, Trump Blocks Biggest Tech Deal In History](#)  
[Bowing To NRA, Trump Abandons Gun Control Promise](#)  
[Republicans In House Say No Collusion, But Mueller's Case Grows](#)  
[James Levine's Final Act At The Met Ends In Disgrace](#)  
[Banker, Part-Time DJ And Next Up To Run Goldman Sachs](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[Britain Links Russia To Attack](#)  
[Republicans In House Find "No Evidence Of Collusion"](#)  
["Buy American"? For This Company, It's Complicated.](#)  
[Security Plan In Ohio Schools: Teachers And Guns](#)  
[Tex. Police: Exploding Packages Connected](#)  
[Trump Blocks Asian Firm's \\$117 Billion Qualcomm Bid](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[Solomon Wins Power Struggle To Emerge As Goldman Heir](#)  
[Hubert De Givenchy, Fashion Designer, 1927-2018](#)  
[Russia Accused By May Over "Reckless" Nerve Agent Attack In Britain](#)  
[Hedge Funds Amass Big Bets Against World's Leading Advertisers](#)

#### ***Washington Times:***

[Cory Booker Uses Senate Judiciary Platform To Highlight 'Implicit Racial Bias' In Justice System](#)  
[House Intel Committee Finds No Evidence Of Collusion Between Trump Campaign, Russia](#)  
[Climate Activists Pick Taxpayer Pockets To Take Down Big Oil](#)  
[Global Warming Skeptic Keeps His Cool Amid Hysteria](#)  
[Feds Prosecuting Illegal Immigrants For Enticing Relatives To U.S.](#)  
[Sinai Swap In Rumored U.S.-Mideast Peace Plan Poses Problems For Egypt's President](#)

### **Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Texas-Serial Bomber; NYC Helicopter Crash; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; WH-School Safety; Russia Probe; Trump-Adult Film Star; UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoning; Nursing Student Murder; OJ Simpson Interview; Country Singer Dehydration; Ocean Documentary.

**CBS:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Severe Weather; NYC Helicopter Crash; UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoning; Russia Probe; Trump-Adult Film Star; DeVos-Interview Aftermath; Sanctuary Cities-Public Opinion; Fertility Clinics Failure; Mexico Ferry Boat Explosion Investigation; Lottery Winner; Gumball Machine Thief; Waffle House Charity.

**NBC:** Texas-Serial Bomber; NYC Helicopter Crash; Severe Weather; WH-School Safety; Trump-Adult Film Star; Fertility Clinics Failure, OJ Simpson Interview; UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoning; Lottery Winner; Fashion Designer Dies; Community Policing.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

Texas-Serial Bomber – 8 minutes, 25 seconds  
NYC Helicopter Crash – 7 minutes, 45 seconds  
Severe Weather – 5 minutes  
UK-Former Russian Spy Poisoning – 5 minutes  
Trump-Adult Film Star – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Russia Probe; Texas-Serial Bomber; WH-School Safety; Wall Street News.

**CBS:** Russia Probe; Texas-Serial Bomber; Border Wall Public Opinion; Sanctuary Cities-Public Opinion; Pennsylvania Special Elections; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Russia Probe; Severe Weather.

**NPR:** WH-School Safety; Severe Weather; Texas-Serial Bomber; Russia Probe; Wall Street News.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Reviews Border Wall Prototypes; delivers remarks to members of the military; participates in a roundtable with Republican National Committee supporters.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

**US Senate:** 8:30 AM Arts Advocacy Day Congressional Arts Kickoff – Arts Advocacy Day Congressional Arts Kickoff, with arts advocates from across the nation networking and learning how to make the case for the arts and arts education to their Members of Congress. Effort led by Americans for the Arts and the Congressional Arts Caucus Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Kennedy Caucus Rm, Washington, DC <http://www.artsusa.org/>  
<https://twitter.com/Americans4Arts>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on CENTCOM

and AFRICOM – Hearing on ‘United States Central Command and United States Africa Command’, with testimony from U.S. Central Command Commander Gen. Joseph Votel; and U.S. Africa Command Commander Gen. Thomas Waldhauser Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on FY’19 DOI budget request – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing ‘To Examine the President’s Budget Request for the Department of the Interior for Fiscal Year 2019’, with testimony from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on administration’s infrastructure plan – Communications, Technology Innovation, and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on ‘Rebuilding Infrastructure in America: Investing in Next Generation Broadband’, with testimony from Wilton Manors, FL, Mayor Gary Resnick; Competitive Carriers Association CEO Steve Berry; TDS Telecom Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Bob DeBroux; CTIA – The Wireless Association Executive Vice President Brad Gillen; and NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association Senior Vice President for Policy Mike Romano Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:15 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the FOIA – Hearing on ‘The Freedom of Information Act: Examining the Administration’s Progress on Reforms and Looking Ahead’, with testimony from Department of Justice Office of Information Policy Director Melanie Ann Pustay; National Archives and Records Administration Office of Government Information Services Director Alina Semo; and Government Accountability Office Director of Information Technology Management Issues David Powner Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Transportation subcommittee hearing on administration’s infrastructure plan – Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Rebuilding Infrastructure in America: State and Local Transportation Needs’, with testimony from Nebraska Department of Transportation Director Kyle Schneweis; National League of Cities member Dan Gilmartin; C.H. Robinson TMC Division President of Managed Services Jordan Kass; and American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association Senior Vice President for Safety and Regulatory Policy Jo Strang Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on cyber posture – Cybersecurity Subcommittee hearing on ‘Cyber Posture of the Services’, with testimony from U.S. Fleet Cyber Command Commander Vice Adm. Michael Gilday; U.S. Army Cyber Command Commanding

General Lt. Gen. Paul Nakasone; Marine Forces Cyberspace Command Commander Maj. Gen. Loretta Reynolds; and Air Forces Cyber Commander Maj. Gen. Christopher Weggeman Location: Rm 222, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Former UK PM testifies to Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 'State Fragility, Growth, and Development' – Hearing on 'State Fragility, Growth, and Development: Designing Policy Approaches That Work', with testimony from Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development (UK) Chairman (and former UK Prime Minister) David Cameron Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

3:00 PM Helsinki Commission workshop on the Global Magnitsky sanctions process – Helsinki Commission holds workshop on 'How to Get Human Rights Abusers and Kleptocrats Sanctioned Under the Global Magnitsky Act', to provide human rights organizations, transparency advocates, and Congressional staff with the tools they need to effectively petition the U.S. Govt to review and potentially designate individuals and organizations for sanctions under the Act. Speakers include Human Rights First Senior Vice President (and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State) Rob Berschinski, The Sentry Managing Director Brad Brooks-Rubin and Director of Policy and Analysis Josh White, Global Magnitsky Justice Campaign founder and Director Bill Browder, Foundation for Defense of Democracies CEO Mark Dubowitz, and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher partner Adam Smith Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC 212-210, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

5:00 PM Dem Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse delivers 200th weekly 'Time to Wake Up' climate speech – Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse delivers his 200th weekly speech 'imploring the Senate to wake up to the threat of climate change' – a series he began in April 2012, discussing the science of manmade climate change, its effects felt throughout the nation and around the world, and 'the corrupt political forces that impede climate action in Congress' – on the chamber floor. He, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and fellow Democratic Sens. Ben Cardin, Dick Durbin, Tom Carper, Bill Nelson, Brian Schatz, Elizabeth Warren, Chris Coons, Sherrod Brown, Bob Casey, Tom Udall, Ed Markey, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie Hirono, and Jeff Merkley, and Independent Sen. Angus King discuss 'the threat climate change poses and the urgent need for a solution' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC [whitehouse.senate.gov](http://whitehouse.senate.gov) <https://twitter.com/SenWhitehouse>

**US House:** 11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC [www.democraticwhip.gov/](http://www.democraticwhip.gov/) <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including

consideration of 'H.R. 4465 – Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1800 – To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs', as amended, 'H.R. 3469 – To designate the bridge located in Blount County, Tennessee, on the Foothills Parkway (commonly known as Bridge 2) as the 'Dean Stone Bridge', 'H.R. 4266 – Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act', as amended, 'H.R. 1350 – To modify the boundary of Voyageurs National Park in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes', and 'S. 324 – State Veterans Home Adult Day Health Care Improvement Act of 2017' under suspension of the rules Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM Bipartisan Reps. Yvette Clarke and Darrell Issa launch Congressional Smart Cities Caucus – Bipartisan Reps. Yvette Clarke and Darrell Issa launch Congressional Smart Cities Caucus – an informal group dedicated to 'issues related to the transformation of our communities to smart cities, how it will bring about innovation and technological change, and the role that Congress can play in this transformation' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2247, Washington, DC [clarke.house.gov](http://clarke.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/RepYvetteClarke>

3:00 PM Helsinki Commission workshop on the Global Magnitsky sanctions process – Helsinki Commission holds workshop on 'How to Get Human Rights Abusers and Kleptocrats Sanctioned Under the Global Magnitsky Act', to provide human rights organizations, transparency advocates, and Congressional staff with the tools they need to effectively petition the U.S. Govt to review and potentially designate individuals and organizations for sanctions under the Act. Speakers include Human Rights First Senior Vice President (and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State) Rob Berschinski, The Sentry Managing Director Brad Brooks-Rubin and Director of Policy and Analysis Josh White, Global Magnitsky Justice Campaign founder and Director Bill Browder, Foundation for Defense of Democracies CEO Mark Dubowitz, and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher partner Adam Smith Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC 212-210, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 1116 – TAILOR Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4263, the Regulation At Improvement Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 4545, the Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

**Other:** 7:30 AM NLC Congressional City Conference continues – National League of Cities Congressional City Conference continues, with speakers today including Democrats Sen. Cory Booker and Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, Republicans Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Randy Hultgren, Former Girl Scouts of the U.S. CEO Anna Marie Chavez, National Association of Home Builders Executive Vice President and Chief Lobbyist James Tobin, Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh, Tom Sawyer Company President/CEO Carolyn Sawyer, Verizon Public Safety Policy Vice President

Donald Brittingham, FirstNet Director of Government Affairs Edward Parkinson, International Association of Fire Chiefs Government Relations Manager James Goldstein, Huntington, WV Mayor Steve Williams, and Population Association of America Director of Government Affairs Mary Jo Hoeksema Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC [ccc.nlg.org](http://ccc.nlg.org) <https://twitter.com/leagueofcities>

2:00 PM GOP Sen. Mike Lee speaks at AEI on the opioid crisis – ‘Interpreting ‘The Numbers Behind the Opioid Crisis’ American Enterprise Institute discussion on a recent report that suggests ‘a focus on economic sources of despair is unlikely to be productive and that social disrepair is the stronger force’. Includes keynote from Republican Sen. Mike Lee, with panelists including Sally Satel (AEI) and Yuval Levin (National Affairs), and Scott Winship (Joint Economic Committee) Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

4:00 PM Irish PM Varadkar speaks at Brookings – Brookings Institution Alan and Jane Batkin International Leaders Forum with Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar, who gives an address on ‘Ireland in Europe and the world’, including ‘the challenge Brexit poses to the Good Friday Agreement and peace in Northern Ireland, the future of the European Union, and relations between the United States and Europe’ Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

5:00 PM Dem Sen. Chris Van Hollen speaks at CoCAT discussion on gun violence and school safety – Panel discussion and conversation on gun violence and school safety, as part of the Conference of the Contemporary Teenager, with Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen, The Washington Post’s Nick Anderson, school psychologist Dr Eric Rossen, free speech activist Mary Beth Tinker, school safety specialist Edward Clarke, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School students \* Event is part of the CoCAT pop-up exhibit created by BCC students that showcases teens’ viewpoints on issues ranging from gun violence to gender to depression to race Location: Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC [www.mocatpopup.org](http://www.mocatpopup.org) <https://twitter.com/mocatpopup>

7:00 PM Dem Rep. Nydia Velazquez honored with NALEO award – National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala, honoring Democratic Rep. Nydia Velazquez with the ‘Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service’. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, and fellow Democratic Rep. Sean Duffy deliver tribute remarks Location: JW Marriott Washington, DC, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.naleo.org](http://www.naleo.org) <https://twitter.com/NALEO>

## **Last Laughs**

---

**Late Night Political Humor.**



**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Donald Trump loves running for President. He just doesn't like being the President. He can't wait to get back on that campaign trail. He encourages supporters in the crowd to, quote, 'Vote like crazy,' which is really the only way you can vote for Donald Trump."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "In fairness to Betsy DeVos, if it seems like she has no idea what she's doing, it's only because she has no idea what she's doing."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Stormy recently sat down with Anderson Cooper for a 60 Minutes interview. Rumor is it's going to be on this Sunday, but now Trump's lawyers are considering a challenge to stop 60 Minutes from airing it. Hmm, why would Donald Trump be scared of a show whose logo is a ticking clock, slowly counting down the seconds until the time is up?"

**Stephen Colbert:** "Earlier today, we learned that Stormy wants out of her non-disclosure agreement so badly that she's offered to return the \$130,000 payment to end the deal for her silence. [Donald Trump] might take it because Trump's going to need the cash for his divorce lawyer."

**Stephen Colbert:** [Referring to a possible meeting between President Trump and Kim Jung-Un] "But with two impulsive leaders and so many logistics, the meeting is starting to appear 'so risky and seemingly far-fetched that some of Mr. Trump's aides believe it will never happen and that the chances were less than 50 percent.' Yeah, but as we learned in 2016, Trump doesn't need 50 percent."

**James Corden:** "It is the start of daylight savings, so we all have to set our clocks forward one hour. Now I know it sucks to lose an hour of sleep. It really does. But on the bright side, look at it this way, we are now one hour closer to the end of Trump's presidency!"

**Trevor Noah:** [Referring to President Trump's rally for Pennsylvania Republican candidate Rick Saccone] "In theory, Trump was meant to be there campaigning for the Republican candidate, but in reality, just there to enjoy himself."

**Trevor Noah:** "This is the cutest story I've heard about Trump in a long time. He was so excited Kim Jong-Un wanted to meet him that he was running around the White House telling everyone."

**Trevor Noah:** "The experts have been trying to solve North Korea for 20 years, and it's only gotten worse. So if the smart people can't do it, why not try Trump? Right? ... What if he gets it right? What if he goes to North Korea, doesn't say anything racist, even bonds with Kim because they go to the same SuperCuts. And then they reach an historic agreement to get rid of North Korea's nukes. That would be amazing. We would celebrate. Until President Trump gets home, and we realize he forgot to sign the last page."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "I guess on Saturday, Trump spoke at a big campaign rally in Pennsylvania. At one point, he said that he really can't wait for 2020, while the rest of America was, like, 'Neither can we.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un on Thursday invited President Trump to meet for negotiations over the country's nuclear program. Now, Trump thinks it's because Kim Jong-Un respects him, but I think it's more like when you're having a high-stakes poker game and your friend goes, 'Oh, I love poker, but I'm not very good at it.' And then you go, 'Oh, you should definitely come. Bring your checkbook. You should definitely come.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "If Trump somehow manages to fall backwards into a peaceful resolution with North Korea, then that is absolutely a good thing. And if that happens, I will be the first to admit, okay, he wasn't Darth Vader, he was Mr. Bean."

**Conan O'Brien:** "The Trump Administration is about to unveil its Middle East peace plan. Yes, it involves giving everyone guns."

**Jordan Klepper:** "Just because Trump has publicly insulted 'Little Rocket Man' since the beginning of his presidency, doesn't mean that now we should boo [Kim Jung-Un]. Sure, he threatened attacks on our territory, proliferated his nuclear arsenal, and violates countless human rights laws, but he also agreed to have a hang session with Trump, so he can't be all bad."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the

Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-14T06:38:18-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 14, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-14T06:38:27-04:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 14, 2018 at 5:59:19 AM EDT  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 6:00 AM EDT**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- E&E Publishing: Zinke Trades Barbs With Democrats In Heated Hearing.
- Denver Post: \$18 Million In Federal Oil And Gas Lease Dollars Headed To Western Colorado Counties After Years-long Battle.
- Unmanned Aerial Online: The Interior Department Is Adding 50 New UAS To Its Fleet.
- The Hill: Dems Push Zinke To Halt Trophy Hunting Imports.
- U.S. News & World Report: Ball State Gets Federal Grant To Develop Civil Rights Museum.
- Associated Press: Climate Science Whistleblower To Speak At Maine College.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- Harassment Pervades The Bureau Of Indian Affairs.
- Ute Tribe Takes U.S. Government To Court Over 'Theft' Of Land And Water In Historic Uncompahgre.
- Alaska Tribal Org Says Feds Can't Duck Land Cleanup Row.

### **Bureau Of Indian Education**

- Claims Of Better Tribal School Oversight Draw Lawmakers' Skepticism.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Deseret (UT) News: BLM: Natural Gas Project Could Generate \$1 Billion In State Royalties.
- E&E Publishing: Critics Pounce On NEPA Streamlining Tool For Leasing.
- Great Falls (MT) Tribune: Comments Needed On Bears Paw, Missouri Breaks Permit Renewals.

### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

- BSEE Launches Risk-Based Inspection Program.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Associated Press: Judge: Yellowstone Grizzly Lawsuits To Proceed As Hunt Looms.
- Associated Press: Groups Seek Protection For Unique Oregon Salamander.
- Associated Press: Wildlife Refuge Christmas Tree Drop Wednesday.
- Klamath Falls (OR) Herald And News: Fish & Wildlife Weighs Drawdown Of 10k Acre Feet From Lower Refuge.
- Platts: Seismic Deniability In ANWR Debate: Fuel For Thought.

### **National Park Service**

- Washington Post: March For Our Lives Gets Permits For Anti-Gun-Violence Rally Along D.C.
- Associated Press: Feds Award \$750K For Loop Trail On Detroit's Belle Isle.
- San Marcos Corridor News (TX): Historical Preservation Office Awarded Grant From National Park Service To Austin.
- Missoula Current (MT): Glacier National Park Superintendent Wants Sperry Chalet Rebuilt In 2 Years.
- Associated Press: Cougar Makes Rare Successful Crossing Of LA-Area Freeway.
- WTOP-FM Washington: Other Parks Pitch In With Prince William Forest Park's Windstorm Cleanup.
- WTOP-FM Washington: Work On National Cemetery's Arlington House Begins Next Week.
- Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch: Outer Banks' Shelly Island Is Gone, According To Experts; It's Still There And Still His, According To The Mechanicsville Man Who Claimed It.
- Maryville (TN) Daily Times: House Passes Bill To Honor Stone On Foothills Parkway.
- Naples (FL) Daily News: Big Cypress Fire 50 Percent Contained; Campgrounds, Trails Still Closed.
- Associated Press: First Grizzly Bears Emerge From Hibernation In Yellowstone.
- Associated Press: Yellowstone Fee Proposal Receives Wyoming Governor's OK.
- Associated Press: Body Of Missing Snowshoer Found On Mount Rainier.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: Single-Engine Plane Makes Emergency Landing In Gulf Islands National Seashore.

### **Insular And International Affairs**

- During Two-Day Visit To USVI, Dept. Of Interior Assistant Secretary Provides \$2.8 Million In Funding .
- Close-Up Program Funds Guam's Future Leaders.
- Challenges Arise From Compact Of Free Association With The US In States And Territories.

### **US Geological Survey**

- Newsweek: When 'The Big One' Strikes, New Earthquake Warning System Could Reduce Deaths.

- Additional Reading.

### **Opinion Pieces**

- The 9 People Donald Trump Might Fire Next.
- At Bears Ears, Trump And Zinke Ignored Everyone But Industry.
- Fees Should Be Waived For Bighorn Canyon.
- Additional Reading.

### **Top National News**

- Associated Press: Trump Announces Pompeo Will Replace Tillerson At State.
- KUSI-TV San Diego: Trump Stresses Need For Border Wall, Blasts California Policies.
- Politico: Sources Say Trump Getting Ready For Crackdown On Trade With China.
- Washington Post: Sources: Trump Considering Replacing Shulkin With Perry.
- Philadelphia Inquirer: Lamb Holds 579-Vote Lead Over Saccone In PA18 Special Election.
- Politico: Trump Voices Support For "Space Force," Says US Will Go Mars "Very Soon."

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Having A Torturer Lead The CIA."
  - "Trump May Make America Miss Rex Tillerson."
  - "Deadly Corruption In Honduras."
  - "America Has Failed Its Kids On Guns. It's Time To Let Them Lead."
- Washington Post.
  - "Republicans Must Choose: Trump Or Trade?"
  - "At ICE, The Truth Is Malleable."
  - "Trump Humiliates Rex Tillerson For The Last Time."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Pompeo's Promise At State."
  - "Hillary Clinton Leans Out."
  - "Trump's Broadcom Veto."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Zinke Trades Barbs With Democrats In Heated Hearing.**

E&E Publishing (3/13, Lunney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday morning "defended his agency's budget request before the

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee." Zinke defended the Trump Administration's budget, "saying that while the department will continue to emphasize energy development, the priorities this year revolve around 'conservation, infrastructure and reorganization.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (3/13, Stone) and Law360 (3/13, Goldberg).

**Zinke: Too Many People Enter National Parks For Free.** In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, The Hill (3/13, Gstalter) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "defended his plan to increase the entrance fees for national parks, saying they need to charge more because too many people get in for free, including veterans and the disabled." Testifying before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday, Zinke said, "When you give discounted or free passes to elderly, fourth graders, veterans, disabled, and you do it by the carload, there's not a whole lot of people who actually pay at our front door. So, we're looking at ways to make sure we have more revenue in the front door of our parks themselves."

The Washington Examiner (3/13, Siegel) reports that "Zinke also said too much of the visitor fees to national parks go to Washington and he would like to give individual parks more discretion on how to use the money." He said, "Part of the value of entrance fees is we want to push more flexibility to the park itself. We want to make sure the parks remain of value and accessible for America. That is the promise we will make. I am aware an increase hurts some families, and our interest is not to hurt families."

**Zinke Defends Plan To Raise Park Fees Amid Flap Over Travel.** The AP (3/13, Biesecker, Daly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, testifying before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Tuesday about his agency's proposed 2019 budget, "bristled...under questioning by Democrats about his travel spending." The AP says Zinke "flashed with anger" when Sen. Maria Cantwell "pressed him on whether he could justify increasing access fees for working Americans" to national parks "when he has been spending taxpayer money on chartered airplane flights." Zinke said, "I resent the fact of your insults, I resent the fact they're misleading, I resent the fact of the doors...And I'll go through line by line. ... To allege that it's a private jet is inappropriate, ma'am."

Reuters (3/13, Volcovici) reports that "Zinke said his Democratic predecessor, Sally Jewell, also racked up significant expenses traveling to remote parts of the country." Zinke said, "She took private charter airplanes and took helicopters. As interior secretary she was out hiking and doing what she was supposed to be doing."

Also reporting are CNN (3/13, Ganim, Wallace), ABC News (3/13, Ebbs), USA Today (3/13, Jansen), Newsmax (3/13, Swanson), and the Missoula Current (MT) (3/13, Buchman).

**Zinke: Oil And Gas Exploration Off The Pacific Coast Might Not Happen.** The Washington Post (3/13, Fears) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan

Zinke "expressed doubt Tuesday that oil and gas exploration will happen off the Pacific coast as part of the Trump administration's proposal to dramatically expand offshore leasing, saying California, Oregon and Washington have 'no known resources of any weight' for energy companies to extract." Commenting on the Atlantic coast while testifying before the Senate Energy Committee, Zinke "similarly described Maine as a state with little recoverable oil and gas." However, "Zinke stopped short of saying that the three Pacific states would be exempted from the president's plan to offer leases on 95 percent of the outer continental shelf."

Also reporting are the Huffington Post (3/13, Bendery), Oregon Public Broadcasting (3/13, Guevarra), and WMEA-FM Portland, ME (3/13, Leary).

***Interior Secretary Zinke Continues To Confuse On Oil Drilling.*** The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (3/13, Leary) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "continues to arm critics with confusing statements about the administration's plans for offshore oil drilling." Appearing before a Senate committee on Tuesday, "Zinke again explained why he decided to exempt Florida from a five-year plan, outlining broad political opposition and the current federal moratorium on untapped areas of the Gulf of Mexico." Zinke said, "Florida is different." However, "moments later, Zinke said, 'Florida is still in the process.'" Later, an agency spokeswoman clarified, "He was just referring to the process and was noting that BOEM will finish the legally-required analysis of the planning areas, as is always done for all planning areas."

***With Growing Number Of Retirement-Age Employees, Zinke Sees Chance To Replace, Relocate Jobs West.*** Federal News Radio (DC) (3/13, Ogrysko) reports that testifying on the Interior Department's reorganization plan before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said that with the growing number of retirement-age employees, he sees chance to relocate jobs to the West. According to the article, "with 16 percent of Interior's workforce at retirement-age today and 40 percent eligible in the next five years, the department sees an opportunity to fill those positions with young talent at lower-grade levels outside of the Washington metropolitan area." Zinke said, "Looking at a replacement as people retire [and] looking at pushing more assets out west, it makes a difference if you're a GS-5 [or] a GS-7 where you live. San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, D.C., are very expensive cities, and quite frankly, the quality of life if you're a GS-7 [or] entry-level is difficult [for] a number of reasons. We are looking at smaller communities out west."

***Interior Secretary Promises Action On Rural Alaska Issues.*** The Anchorage (AK) Daily News (3/13, Martinson) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski "used her plum position atop the Senate's energy committee Tuesday to advance rural Alaska issues with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." Murkowski questioned "Zinke on permitting for the controversial Ambler Road project and land management concerns for miners in Interior Alaska." Murkowski's "efforts to secure favorable outcomes comes after a



string of 'wins' for the Alaska delegation with the department, including opening part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to potential oil drilling and beginning the process of building a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge."

### **\$18 Million In Federal Oil And Gas Lease Dollars Headed To Western Colorado Counties After Years-long Battle.**

The Denver Post (3/13, Paul) reports that roughly \$18 million "in federal oil and gas lease revenue is slated to be distributed among four Western Slope counties after it was set aside but never used for cleanup of the Anvil Points federal oil shale research site." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "in announcing his agency's decision to distribute the funds, said a check is on its way to the state." The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (3/13, Harmon) reports that "the money will be split among Garfield, Mesa, Moffat and Rio Blanco counties."

KXRM-TV Colorado Springs, CO (3/13, Asperin) reports that Zinke said, "The Anvil Points energy payments are now where they belong, with the people of Colorado. Rural counties across the west have a unique relationship with the federal government because their economic livelihood is tied to the federal lands that surround the towns. Communities rely on the revenue the local land produces for everything from firefighting to building roads and supporting schools. This is money that belongs to the communities, and I was happy that we could deliver on that promise today."

Additional coverage was provided by the Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (3/14, Ashby), the Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (3/14, Harmon), and the Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent (3/13).

### **The Interior Department Is Adding 50 New UAS To Its Fleet.**

Unmanned Aerial Online (3/13, Lillian) reports that the Interior Department will "soon have the use of up to 50 vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) fixed-wing unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)." The department "awarded a contract to Birdseyeview Aerobotics of Andover, N.H., to produce the drones and train DOI personnel." Mark Bathrick, director of the DOI's Office of Aviation Services, said, "The extended range and endurance of these aircraft will provide our land managers, emergency managers, firefighters and scientists with expanded aviation capabilities that continue to reduce the risk and cost of carrying out missions. Adding VTOL fixed-wing UAS to our current fleet of rotary-wing UAS is timely as we work with our Federal Aviation Administration partners to extend the allowable range of UAS operations in remote locations or other areas where the terrain and other operational issues can restrict manned aircraft operations."

Also reporting are Military & Aerospace Electronics (3/13), sUAS News (UK) (3/13), and Investor Ideas (3/13).

### **Dems Push Zinke To Halt Trophy Hunting Imports.**

The Hill (3/13, Cama) reports that “dozens of House Democrats have asked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to halt all trophy hunting import decisions for elephants and other species, expressing ‘deep concern’ over the Trump administration’s policy.” The 55 legislators, led by House Natural Resources Committee ranking member Rep. Raúl Grijalva, “complained in a Tuesday letter that Interior’s decision to consider trophy import licenses on a ‘case-by-case’ basis reduces transparency and accountability and will allow more imports of animal parts into the country.” The Democrats said they have “deep concern about the continued misguided approach the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is taking regarding the trophy killing of elephants and lions in African countries and the negative implications it has for this imperiled wildlife.”

***Elephant Trophy Hunting: Over 1.3 Million Urge U.S. Ivory Import Ban After Trump Reversal.*** Newsweek (3/13, Palmer) reports that “more than one million people have signed a petition urging a ban on ivory and tusks being imported into the U.S. after the Trump administration reversed an Obama-era block on bringing elephant sport hunting trophies into the country.” The petition on Change.org, “which is aimed at President Donald Trump and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, is gaining signatures rapidly since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it will lift the ban and that requests will now be dealt with on a ‘case-by case-basis.’” At the time of publication, the petition had “attracted more than 1.3 million supporters.”

### **Ball State Gets Federal Grant To Develop Civil Rights Museum.**

The U.S. News & World Report (3/13) reports that Ball State University is “receiving a nearly \$50,000 federal grant to develop a virtual museum for engaging Indiana’s legacy in civil rights.” The Interior Department and the National Park Service “announced Monday that the university is receiving an African American Civil Rights Grant for the project.”

Additional coverage of the grants was provided by the Alabama Today (3/13), the Memphis (TN) Flyer (3/13, Smith), the Shreveport (LA) Times (3/13), the Selma (AL) Times Journal (3/13, Deshazo), the Chicago Tribune (3/13), and the Pittsfield (MA) Berkshire Eagle (3/13, Bellow).

### **Climate Science Whistleblower To Speak At Maine College.**

The AP (3/14) reports that “a climate scientist who filed a whistleblower complaint against President Donald Trump’s interior secretary and later resigned is speaking at a Maine college.” Joel Clement, a former Interior Department official, is “scheduled to speak at Bates College’s Olin Arts Center Concert Hall on Wednesday night.” The event is called “The Trump Administration’s War on Climate Policy: A View From a Whistleblower Who is Speaking Out.”

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **Harassment Pervades The Bureau Of Indian Affairs.**

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/13, Smith) reports that "employees with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, an agency staffed mostly by American Indians, experience more harassment than other Interior agencies," according to surveys. Moreover, "recent investigations show that little meaningful action has been taken to prevent such harassment, or address it when it is reported." BIA spokesperson Nedra Darling said, "The Department of Interior is committed to ending harassment and takes allegations of sexual harassment seriously. Allegations of misconduct, such as sexual harassment, are investigated thoroughly."

### **Ute Tribe Takes U.S. Government To Court Over 'Theft' Of Land And Water In Historic Uncompahgre.**

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/13, Maffly) reports that "more than a century ago, the U.S. government made several promises to the Ute Indian Tribe when it evicted the Uncompahgre and White River bands from fertile homelands in Colorado in a largely failed effort to resettle tribal members to Utah's Uinta Basin, though the arid land was ill-suited for farming." However, "that ground under the historic 1.8 million-acre Uncompahgre Reservation near the Colorado-Utah border proved to be rich in minerals, and tribal officials now say they never were compensated for more than a century of mining and drilling on leased lands around the East Tavaputs Plateau." In new lawsuits filed by late last week, the Ute tribe claimed "federal authorities should have managed the forage, gilsonite, oil and gas, water and other natural resources on those lands for the benefit of the tribe, but instead orchestrated their 'theft.'" According to the article, "their litigation also aims to settle the long-disputed status of the lands west of the Colorado border, asking a federal judge to declare that they be 'restored' to trust status, citing a 1945 order issued by the Interior Department."

### **Alaska Tribal Org Says Feds Can't Duck Land Cleanup Row.**

[Law360](#) (3/13, Stanley) reports that "a health care nonprofit run by an Alaskan tribe slammed the federal government's bid to escape a suit over its failure to clean up and transfer oil-contaminated land to the nonprofit, telling a D.C. federal judge Tuesday the government's contention that the claims are time-barred runs contrary to case law."

### **Bureau Of Indian Education**

---

#### **Claims Of Better Tribal School Oversight Draw Lawmakers' Skepticism.**

The [Navajo-Hopi Observer \(AZ\)](#) (3/13, Schultz) reports that Bureau of Indian Education Director Tony Dearman "told lawmakers Feb. 14 that his agency is making strong improvements in the oversight of tribal schools, despite a long history of problems and proposed cuts to the bureau's budget." However, his testimony to a House Education and the Workforce subcommittee was "criticized as 'pretty naïve' by Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-

Tucson, who said the system's \$1.3 billion backlog of repairs, poorly allocated resources and other problems will not be helped by cuts to school and social programs." Other lawmakers "also had sharp questions about the BIE, which was put on the Government Accountability Office's high risk list of poorly managed agencies last year." Dearman said his agency has "been working on a restructuring plan that includes increasing consultation with tribal councils, improving teacher retention rate and hiring personnel to improve data collection."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **BLM: Natural Gas Project Could Generate \$1 Billion In State Royalties.**

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/13, O'Donoghue) reports that "one of the most significant oil and gas development proposals in Uintah County – expected to generate as much as \$1 billion in state royalties – is open for public review with the release of an environmental impact statement." In the Uinta Basin, the Greater Chapita Wells Natural Gas Infill Project is "planned on 43,071 acres." The project would "add to 1,247 oil and gas wells already drilled in the area, with development of 2,808 oil and gas wells that would be drilled over 15 years under the proposed action."

### **Critics Pounce On NEPA Streamlining Tool For Leasing.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (3/13) reports that the Trump Administration's "latest efforts to streamline oil and gas development have drawn sharp criticism from environmentalists who say the policies shortcut federal law." At issue is the use of "determinations of NEPA adequacy" for oil and gas leasing. According to the article, "it's not yet clear how much BLM may expand its use of DNAs or how courts would view the practice, but environmentalists are promising to keep the litigation pressure on."

### **Comments Needed On Bears Paw, Missouri Breaks Permit Renewals.**

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (3/13) reports that the Bureau of Land Management North Central Montana District is "currently in the process of renewing grazing permits on 114 grazing allotments in the Bears Paw to Missouri River Breaks planning area." The BLM is conducting an Environmental Analysis for the permit renewal. A 30-day public scoping comment period began March 12.

## **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

---

### **BSEE Launches Risk-Based Inspection Program.**

[Marine Link](#) (3/13, Fonseca) reports that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement "this week announced the implementation of a new Risk-Based Inspection Program that employs a systematic framework to identify facilities and operations that exhibit a high-risk profile." According to the article, "the new risk-based inspection protocol looks beyond compliance and assesses the integrity of critical safety systems on

facilities and operations, those that have had multiple incidents of noncompliance or events and may need more attention." Jason Mathews, chief of BSEE's Gulf of Mexico Region Safety Management Office, said, "We developed this program to address areas where trends in compliance and incident data suggest the potential for imminent safety concerns."

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

#### **Judge: Yellowstone Grizzly Lawsuits To Proceed As Hunt Looms.**

The [AP](#) (3/13) reports that "a federal judge says lawsuits from environmentalists and American Indians who want to restore protections for Yellowstone-area grizzly bears can move forward." U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen on Tuesday rejected "a request by the Interior Department to put the lawsuits on hold." Attorneys for the department "had argued they needed time to review last year's decision to lift protections for the animals."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/13, Chaney).

#### **Groups Seek Protection For Unique Oregon Salamander.**

The [AP](#) (3/13) reports that "four conservation groups are seeking federal protection for a unique species of salamander that lives in the Klamath-Siskiyou region of southern Oregon and northern California." The petition filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Monday claimed "increasing logging of old-growth forests is threatening the Siskiyou Mountains salamander." The petition by Cascadia Wildlands, the Center for Biological Diversity, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and Environmental Protection Information Center sought "immediate protection under the Endangered Species Act."

#### **Wildlife Refuge Christmas Tree Drop Wednesday.**

The [AP](#) (3/13) reports that "more than 8,000 bundled Christmas trees are to be airdropped Wednesday into a wildlife refuge in New Orleans as a way to slow erosion." The trees will "create breakwaters to slow wave and water movement, trap silt, and encourage the growth of marsh grasses in the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said in a news release Tuesday." The article notes that "last year's collection totaled more than 6,000 trees."

#### **Fish & Wildlife Weighs Drawdown Of 10k Acre Feet From Lower Refuge.**

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/13, Dillemath) reports that "over the next month, U.S. Fish and Wildlife will weigh whether to take an estimated 10,000 acre feet of water from the Lower Klamath Basin Refuge for use by Basin irrigators facing a devastating drought." Paul Souza, regional director for Fish and Wildlife's Pacific Southwest region, "said the

measure is one of a variety of ways the federal agency is trying to make things work for irrigators who are trying to plan for their crops this year." Souza was "one of three panelists during a Bureau of Reclamation-hosted meeting Friday that drew at least 180 people to the Klamath County Fairgrounds." Souza said he and Refuge Complex Manager Greg Austin will "make the final call on whether to go forward."

### **Seismic Deniability In ANWR Debate: Fuel For Thought.**

Platts (3/14) reports that Alaska officials "hope to jump-start exploration" in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge "with \$10 million in 'seed money' toward the cost of a 3-D seismic program to gather new information on oil and gas prospects." However, "some Alaska legislators question the state's investment in seismic." State Senator Peter Micciche said, "There is a risk that you could chill interest if the seismic results devalue certain prospects," in the refuge's coastal plain.

### **National Park Service**

---

### **March For Our Lives Gets Permits For Anti-Gun-Violence Rally Along D.C.**

Streets, Parks. The Washington Post (3/13, Moyer) reports that "permit requests have been approved for an anti-gun-violence rally that could bring as many as 500,000 people to downtown Washington later this month." The March For Our Lives rally, organized by "survivors of last month's school shooting in Parkland, Fla., will be held March 24 along Pennsylvania Avenue beginning at noon." National Park Service spokesman Mike Litterst "said an application was approved that includes usage of sidewalks along Pennsylvania Avenue NW between Third and 12th streets; sidewalks along Constitution Avenue NW between First and Ninth streets; green space between Constitution Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue and Third Street NW; and John Marshall Park, the U.S. Navy Memorial and Freedom Plaza."

Additional coverage was provided by The Hill (3/13, Gstalter).

### **Feds Award \$750K For Loop Trail On Detroit's Belle Isle.**

The AP (3/13) reports that "federal funds will help pay for a 6-mile, multi-use loop trail around Belle Isle Park in Detroit." Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters "say \$750,000 is being provided by the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program." The funds will be matched by private investments for the Belle Isle trail.

Also reporting are WDIV-TV Detroit Detroit (3/13, Kelly) and WXYZ-TV Detroit Detroit (3/13).

### **Historical Preservation Office Awarded Grant From National Park Service To Austin.**

The [San Marcos Corridor News \(TX\)](#) (3/12) reports that "the City of Austin's Historic Preservation Office has been awarded an Underrepresented Communities Grant from the National Park Service." According to the article, "the \$43,200 grant is one of 13 grants awarded across the country to increase the inventory of historic properties associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places."

### **Glacier National Park Superintendent Wants Sperry Chalet Rebuilt In 2 Years.**

The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (3/14, Devlin) reports that Glacier National Park "hopes to rebuild Sperry Chalet in two construction seasons, starting this summer, Superintendent Jeff Mow said Tuesday night." Mow "joined architects from Andersen and Hallas and the staff of the Glacier National Park Conservancy for a public 'scoping' meeting conducted face-to-face with park visitors in Columbia Falls and online with 179 others via Facebook Live."

### **Cougar Makes Rare Successful Crossing Of LA-Area Freeway.**

The [AP](#) (3/13) reports that the National Park Service "says researchers have documented a rare case of a cougar from the Santa Monica Mountains successfully crossing U.S. Highway 101 to an area less hemmed in by Southern California sprawl." The agency "said Tuesday it's only the fifth known crossing of the major freeway in more than 15 years of study." The mountain lion dubbed P-64 "went through an underground culvert near where officials are planning to build a wildlife bridge over the freeway."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTLA-TV](#) Los Angeles (3/13, Wenzke).

### **Other Parks Pitch In With Prince William Forest Park's Windstorm Cleanup.**

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (3/13, Pointer) reports that "crews at Prince William Forest Park are getting help as they continue their cleanup after this month's historic windstorm." According to the article, "workers from 15 national parks are assisting with the hard work of clearing trees, repairing downed power lines and assessing damage to historic buildings." The park remains closed, but "officials hope to reopen it in two weeks."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (3/13, Hedelt).

### **Work On National Cemetery's Arlington House Begins Next Week.**

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (3/13, Hensley) reports that "a fixture of Arlington National Cemetery is closing next week so construction can begin on a multimillion-dollar rehabilitation project." The Arlington House is "closing to the public beginning Monday, March 19, so it can undergo a monthslong rehabilitation project." Park Superintendent Alexcy Romero said in a news release Tuesday, "While Arlington House serves as a memorial to Robert E.

Lee, it also stands alone in its capacity to tell the stories of our nation's triumphs and struggles through the lens of those who called it home."

### **Outer Banks' Shelly Island Is Gone, According To Experts; It's Still There And Still His, According To The Mechanicsville Man Who Claimed It.**

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/13, Lohmann) reports that "Shelly Island, a crescent-shaped strip of land that formed last year off the point of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, is no more, according to the National Park Service." The park service said that "several severe weather events during the summer and fall of 2017 may have played a part in Shelly Island's demise." However, "the Mechanicsville man who laid claim to the island says it's still there and it's still his." Ken Barlow asserted, "So the island off the point has merged with the point. My land is still there. The deed I recorded has GPS coordinates. My land is still there in the corner of the point."

### **House Passes Bill To Honor Stone On Foothills Parkway.**

The [Maryville \(TN\) Daily Times](#) (3/14) reports that the House of Representatives on Tuesday passed legislation, H.R. 3469, introduced by Rep. John J. Duncan Jr., "that would name 'Bridge 2' of the new section of the Foothills Parkway as the Dean Stone Bridge." Duncan said, "Dean Stone was one of the Park's strongest advocates for many, many years, and there was no stronger supporter of completing the parkway than him." According to the National Park Service, "this section of the Foothills Parkway, from Walland to Wears Valley, is expected to open later this year."

### **Big Cypress Fire 50 Percent Contained; Campgrounds, Trails Still Closed.**

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (3/13, Riley) reports that "a 3,019-acre brush fire smoldering in Big Cypress National Preserve was 50 percent contained Tuesday, officials said." The Anhinga Fire "sparked Thursday" and "has forced park officials to close parts of the 729,000-acre preserve, including campgrounds, roads and trails." The cause of the fire is under investigation.

### **First Grizzly Bears Emerge From Hibernation In Yellowstone.**

The [AP](#) (3/13) reports that "grizzly bears have started to emerge from hibernation in Yellowstone National Park." According to the article, "park staff spotted an 11-year-old male grizzly bear wearing a radio collar in the west-central part of the park on March 6." The following day, "park employees reported seeing a grizzly bear in the east-central part of the park."

### **Yellowstone Fee Proposal Receives Wyoming Governor's OK.**



The [AP](#) (3/13) reports that the state of Wyoming will "seek an agreement with U.S. Interior Department and National Park Service officials about collecting a fee at Yellowstone National Park to fund wildlife conservation efforts in the states surrounding the park." Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead on Monday "signed a joint resolution passed the state Legislature earlier calling for discussions about the fees."

### **Body Of Missing Snowshoer Found On Mount Rainier.**

The [AP](#) (3/13) reports that "the body of a missing snowshoer has been recovered at Mount Rainier National Park." Mount Rainier National Park officials "say the man's body was located Tuesday morning at about the 4,500-foot level in the Nisqually drainage below Paradise."

### **Single-Engine Plane Makes Emergency Landing In Gulf Islands National Seashore.**

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (3/13) reports that "a small, single-engine Cessna-type aircraft made an emergency landing Tuesday afternoon on Gulf Boulevard in the Gulf Islands National Seashore, according to a National Park Service spokesman." A park service ranger "responded to the incident." According to the article, "an NPS investigation is underway, and the agency also requested an investigation from the Federal Aviation Administration."

### **Insular And International Affairs**

---

### **During Two-Day Visit To USVI, Dept. Of Interior Assistant Secretary Provides \$2.8 Million In Funding .**

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (3/13) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech "on Monday met with U.S. Virgin Islands and FEMA officials in St. Croix to review hurricane rebuilding efforts." Domenech announced "\$2.8 million in federal grants for rebuilding infrastructure and utilities." The money will "support upgrades at the local public schools, road rehabilitation in St. Croix, and meter reading for the Water and Power Authority (WAPA), Interior said." Domenech said, "Hurricanes Irma and Maria greatly tested the resiliency of Virgin Islanders but they are stronger than ever. My team and I visited this week with public and private sector officials on a wide range of issues including how to provide abundant and affordable energy to consumers for the future. Secretary Zinke continues to be a strong advocate for VI needs at the highest levels of the Trump administration."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (3/14).

### **Close-Up Program Funds Guam's Future Leaders.**

[KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (3/14, Terlaje) reports that the Interior Department "authorized \$900,000 to fund the Close-Up Insular Area

Program that allows Guam students and students from other U.S. territories to travel to Washington D.C. and participate in youth summits.”

### **Challenges Arise From Compact Of Free Association With The US In States And Territories.**

Pasquines (PRI) (3/13, Aberastury) looks at the benefits to the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau and Northern Mariana islands of the Compact of Free Association with the United States. The article notes that “one of the key benefits is that COFA citizens are able to move freely throughout the United States and the territories with a legal non-immigrant status.” In addition, “the COFA requires the US to provide defense for the islands, allowing the local governments to free up funds for important resources of development.” However, “to the US, it has constrained already limited budgets.” Looking ahead, “if the COFA states were to sign an agreement with China, the US would lose regional power overall as well,” and “the potential of siding with China may lead them to a better negotiating table with the US.”

### **US Geological Survey**

---

#### **When ‘The Big One’ Strikes, New Earthquake Warning System Could Reduce Deaths.**

Newsweek (3/13, Bartels) reports that “a plan to alert the Pacific region about an imminent earthquake could give people precious seconds they need to escape death.” The USGS is focusing on ShakeAlert, which “uses a network of sensors that pinpoint the exact location of any seismic activity as soon as it begins.” However, “the project has lagged in part because it’s currently running on half its desired budget.”

#### **Additional Reading.**

- *Fears That A Yellowstone Supereruption Is On The Way Are Growing.* Daily Mail (3/13, Pinkstone).

### **Opinion Pieces**

---

#### **The 9 People Donald Trump Might Fire Next.**

On the website of CNN (3/13, Cillizza), Chris Cillizza speculates on who might be the next White House officials to leave the Trump Administration. In a ranking of “embattled Trump Cabinet members,” Cillizza places Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke fifth. Cillizza notes that Zinke was “on the receiving end of a slew of negative press last week when word leaked out that the department had paid \$139,000 to replace doors in his office space.” Zinke is “also facing a series of questions about whether his travel expenditures push the limits of legality.”

#### **At Bears Ears, Trump And Zinke Ignored Everyone But Industry.**

In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/13, Thompson), Jonathan Thompson writes that “documents recently released by the Department of Interior show that when drawing the new boundaries” of Bears Ears National Monument, President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “ignored not only the pleas of five Native American tribal nations, but also proposals from local county commissioners and the state of Utah.” However, “the voice of Energy Fuels, the most active uranium company in the Bears Ears region, appears to have been heard.” On the other hand, Thompson says that “Obama’s staffers were in constant contact with Utah congressional staffers and other officials for months prior to monument designation.”

### **Fees Should Be Waived For Bighorn Canyon.**

In an editorial, the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (3/13, Baker) argues that fees should be waived at Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. It notes that “the national recreation area spends \$257,000 in labor and expenses to collect entrance fees, but last year, those fees only brought in \$97,000.” According to the paper, “by waiving fees, both the Park Service and visitors would end up saving money and time.”

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Turning Back The Clock On Protecting Alaska’s Wild Lands.* [New York Times](#) (3/13, Dombeck).
- *Ron Fink: Saving Western Snowy Plover At VAFB Seems Futile Effort.* [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Noozhawk](#) (3/13, Fink).
- *OPINION: Help Shape Gateway’s Future.* [Brooklyn \(NY\) Daily Eagle](#) (3/13, Zablocki, Cosgrove).

## **Top National News**

---

### **Trump Announces Pompeo Will Replace Tillerson At State.**

Media coverage of the President’s decision to replace Secretary of State Tillerson with CIA Director Pompeo was extensive, including the lead stories on all three major network newscasts. Reports also noted Trump selected Gina Haspel as his choice to run the CIA. A number of stories describe Trump’s decision as further evidence of disarray in his Administration. The [AP](#) (3/13, Lederman, Lee), for example, calls Tillerson “the latest casualty of an unruly White House,” and the [New York Times](#) (3/13, Baker) remarks on “the never-ending reality-show drama of the Trump administration” as “characters come and go and sometimes come back again.” A majority of analyses, however, cast Tillerson’s tenure at State in a sharply unfavorable light, and highlight his strained relationship with his boss. Along those lines, [USA Today](#) (3/13, Locker, Jackson) says Tillerson often appeared “at odds with Trump or out of the loop altogether,” [Bloomberg News](#) (3/13, Wadhams, Epstein) that the decision follows “months of strained relations with...Trump,” the [Los Angeles Times](#)

(3/13, Wilkinson) that Tillerson "clashed with Trump on numerous issues," Reuters (3/13) that the President "publicly undercut" his "diplomatic initiatives numerous times," and the New York Times (3/13, Baker, Harris, Landler) that "veteran diplomats said they could not remember a time when a president so regularly undermined his secretary of state so brazenly."

Moreover, NBC Nightly News (3/13, lead story, 3:20, Holt) reported that "the President wanted his new secretary of state in place ahead of his planned North Korea talks." David Ignatius writes in the Washington Post (3/13) that "a successful secretary of state needs to be able to speak for the president – something that Tillerson could never do and Pompeo will probably achieve from Day One." On North Korea, "probably the most important foreign policy effort of his presidency," Pompeo "will likely be" Trump's "key adviser and perhaps emissary – prepping an inexperienced president for what's ahead."

Trump announced the shakeup on Twitter, writing, "Mike Pompeo, Director of the CIA, will become our new Secretary of State. Thank you to Rex Tillerson for his service!" Later Monday, ABC World News Tonight (3/13, lead story, 3:40, Muir) reported, Trump "explained he just didn't see eye-to-eye with his Secretary of State." Of Pompeo, he told reporters, "Tremendous energy, tremendous intellect. We're always on the same wavelength." ABC added that the "timing of the firing was a shock, but it's no secret the President has clashed with his Secretary of State for months on the Iran nuclear deal, on the Paris Climate Agreement and, most dramatically, on North Korea." The CBS Evening News (3/13, lead story, 2:50, Glor) also reported that the President "said they clashed over the Iran nuclear deal," and that Trump "rejected Tillerson's advice to stick with US commitments to the Paris climate change accord and an Asia Pacific free-trade deal. He also overruled Tillerson, and instead took Jared Kushner's advice to relocate the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem this year." Brit Hume said on Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight (3/13) that Tillerson's firing "show[s] you cannot disagree with the President on major foreign policy issues...and last forever."

The Washington Post (3/13, Parker, Rucker) reports "Trump told reporters Tuesday that he had been considering removing Tillerson for 'a long time' because they disagreed over US strategy in key areas of foreign policy, such as the Iran nuclear deal, the approach to North Korea and the tone of US diplomacy." In its lead story, CNN's Situation Room (3/13) showed Trump saying, "Rex and I have been talking about this for a long time. We got along quite well, but we disagreed on things. When you look at the Iran deal – I think it is terrible. I guess he thought it was okay. ... So we were not really thinking the same."

Jeff Zeleny said on CNN's Situation Room (3/13), "The timing was definitely a surprise, but it was in many respects one of the most anticipated things in all of Washington. In fact, it has been talked about so much, people thought things had moved on. But clearly what the President

was waiting for was the secretary of state to step aside, to resign. But he made clear repeatedly that he was going nowhere. He was going to force the issue and make the President fire him, and that's in fact what happened."

Jeffery Toobin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/13), "We are in completely uncharted waters. There has never been turnover like this in any kind of White House, much less a modern White House. ... This is a completely different situation than we've ever seen before, and remember, also, the White House chief of staff General Kelly, his job is hanging by a thread. General McMaster, the National Security Adviser, his job is hanging by a thread. We could be looking at a turnover of almost the entire Administration except for Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump."

**Reuters, WPost Analyses: Firing Signals New Trump Approach To Staff, Agenda.** [Reuters](#) (3/13, Mason) reports that "almost 14 months into...Trump's turbulent White House tenure, loyalists are in, dissenters are out and the president himself is acting on his own instincts more swiftly than ever to make decisions on policies from trade to North Korea." According to "people close to Trump...his firing...of...Tillerson was the latest sign" of his "growing impatience with his initial set of hand-picked advisers who he viewed as slow-walking his favored policies." Trump "will still encourage disagreement within his inner circle, these people said, but once he makes a decision, he wants it carried out swiftly." Andrew Surabian, "a former White House strategist under Trump," tells Reuters, "What has changed is that he is no longer willing to allow people to slow roll or stonewall his agenda. ... He wants people executing and getting things done."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/13, Nakamura, Paletta) reports that "for much of his tumultuous tenure," Trump "has made impulsive, gut-level pronouncements – about dealing with Democrats on immigration, tearing up the Iran nuclear deal or supporting stricter gun control – only to be walked back by his more cautious staff." But "those days, it appears, are over," with Trump's recent decisions alarming "a West Wing staff who fear the president has felt less restrained about acting on his whims amid the recent departures of several longtime aides." The Post adds that "White House allies in Washington suggested that Trump has been liberated to manage his administration as he did his private business, making decisions that feel good in the moment because he believes in his ability to win – regardless of whether they are backed by rigorous analysis or supported by top advisers."

**Spokesman Also Out After Dispute With White House Over How Tillerson Learned The News.** Tillerson's spokesman and the White House were at odds yesterday over how the news of his firing was delivered to Tillerson and how the Secretary's dismissal came about. The [Washington Post](#) (3/13, Parker, Rucker) reports that the White House said that "as Tillerson traveled through Africa, White House chief of staff John F. Kelly called to wake him up in the wee hours there Saturday to alert him that he would

soon be replaced and to return to Washington as soon as possible." Tillerson then "cut his trip short Monday to fly home," though "his spokesman said Tuesday that the secretary of state was 'unaware of the reason' for his firing and had not spoken directly with Trump." The New York Times (3/13, Baker, Harris, Landler), meanwhile, reports that "according to a senior State Department official," Tillerson "learned he had been fired on Tuesday morning when a top aide showed him" the "tweet from Mr. Trump announcing the change." The Times adds that Tillerson "had gotten an oblique warning of what was coming...from...Kelly, who called to tell him to cut short a trip to Africa and advised him 'you may get a tweet.'"

The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Bender, Youssef) quotes Steve Goldstein, the undersecretary of public affairs at the State Department, as saying, "The secretary did not speak to the president this morning and is unaware of the reason. ... But he is grateful for the opportunity to serve, and still believes strongly that public service is a noble calling and not to be regretted." The New York Post (3/13, Moore) notes Goldstein also said, "The Secretary had every intention of remaining because of the tangible progress made on critical national security issues. He established and enjoyed relationships with his counterparts." The Washington Times (3/13, Sands) reports Goldstein "was fired after putting out" the "statement apparently contradicting the White House's version."

Most media accounts, at any rate, are closer to the version of the Tillerson spokesman. The AP (3/13, Lederman, Lee), for example, says Tillerson was "unceremoniously dumped...by tweet," and The Hill (3/13, Chalfant, Greenwood) reports that Trump "told reporters Tuesday morning that he made the decision 'by myself,' signaling he did not speak with Tillerson before firing him." Also, Michelle Kosinski reported on CNN's Situation Room (3/13) that Tillerson "truly did not know that he was losing his job until this morning," and "I think you could see it" in Tillerson's press conference. The Washington Times (3/13, Boyer, Taylor) reports that in his "somber post-firing news briefing at State Department headquarters in Foggy Bottom, Mr. Tillerson thanked the department's rank and file 'for the privilege of serving' as America's top diplomat."

The Washington Free Beacon (3/13, Kredo) cites "sources with knowledge of the matter," meanwhile, who "said the White House informed Tillerson on Friday that Trump was seeking to make a change." A "senior administration official" also told the Washington Examiner (3/13, Westwood) that Kelly "phoned Tillerson in Africa on Friday to inform him of his firing." The Washington Post (3/13, Parker, Rucker, Dawsey, Leonnig), meanwhile, reports "the president was so eager to fire Tillerson that he wanted to do so in a tweet on Friday, but Kelly persuaded Trump to wait until his secretary of state was back in the United States from Africa, two people familiar with the conversation said."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/13) also criticizes the manner of Tillerson's firing, but praises Pompeo's selection to replace him.

The Washington Post (3/13) says in an editorial that Tillerson was "poorly cast as secretary of state," but "none" of his "weaknesses...appear to explain why Mr. Tillerson was abruptly dismissed, via tweet."

USA Today (3/13), meanwhile, bemoans "Trump's tacky dismissal of...Tillerson," and adds that while it "was the right decision," it was made "almost certainly for the wrong reasons and announced in the wrong way (by tweet)."

*Media Analyses Pan Tillerson's Performance At State.* Media reports cast a decidedly unfavorable light on Tillerson's performance as Secretary of State. Politico (3/13, Toosi) reports "State Department employees had one main reaction to...Tillerson's ouster as secretary of state on Tuesday: 'Good riddance.'" The announcement "sent a wave of hope through a department battered by low morale under Tillerson, who dismissed the expertise of career diplomats and sought to downsize the department." Politico adds that "multiple foreign and Civil Service officers struck a hopeful note about Tillerson's chosen replacement," as "many hope that Pompeo's close relationship with Trump will mean that the State Department will gain more influence with a president who has often sidelined it."

In its analysis of Tillerson's tenure at State, Politico Magazine (3/13, Glasser) says he "feuded with fellow Cabinet members, clashed with White House staff, and alienated many of the thousands of career officials at the State Department who initially welcomed him as a voice of establishment calm in an unsettling new administration only to watch as he slashed their budgets and devalued their work." Tillerson "was barely on speaking terms with national security adviser H.R. McMaster, engaged in a bitter turf war with presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner, disdained by key members of Congress who had once cheered for him, and almost comically out of the loop on key policy decisions."

The New York Times (3/13, Baker, Harris, Landler) reports "foreign diplomats – starting with the British and the French – said Mr. Tillerson neither returned phone calls nor, with much advance warning, set up meetings with his counterparts." Moreover, "strategic dialogues with many nations, including nuclear weapons powers like Pakistan, were ended without explanation," and "the State Department's policymaking process devolved into conversations between Mr. Tillerson and a lone top aide, neither of whom had much experience or knowledge about many of the countries they discussed." The Times adds that "Tillerson became so isolated that even top administration officials like Mr. Pompeo and allies like Condoleezza Rice...had trouble penetrating a phalanx of staff to speak to him directly."

On ABC World News Tonight (3/13, story 3, 1:20, Muir), Martha Raddatz described the State Department as "a ghost town. There is no confirmed assistant secretary for East Asia, no ambassador to South Korea, and no special representative from North Korea policy. He left just before the [North Korea] meeting was announced, so all of the key people at

State responsible for the region are in acting or interim positions. But maybe Mike Pompeo can change all of that." Brian Todd reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/13) that "former diplomats and national security veterans are warning there is chaos at the top of that team. ... Veteran diplomats say before a crucial summit, a top US envoy needs to meet with the North Koreans or even Kim himself, take their measure, figure out what they want out of the negotiations. But tonight, America has no envoy," and "Pompeo's confirmation isn't scheduled until April, just weeks before the proposed summit."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/13, story 2, 2:25, Holt), Andrea Mitchell said "Tillerson's legacy" is "a hollowed-out State Department: 38 key ambassadors not appointed, 16 vacancies as assistant secretaries and all 6 undersecretaries will be vacant."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/13, Gearan, Morello), meanwhile, says Tillerson was "derided by many of his employees who blamed him for marginalizing their role and diplomacy itself," but that "after months of denying he intended to resign, Tillerson was ousted...just as he seemed to be hitting his diplomatic stride."

Marc A. Thiessen writes in the [Washington Post](#) (3/13) that "there are many reasons...Tillerson's tenure as secretary of state was a failure, from his notorious isolation from his subordinates to his failure to help quickly staff the political appointment positions at State with competent Republicans." However, "it was his insubordination to the president that assured that he wouldn't be long in his position." Thiessen adds that "with a summit with North Korea in the works," Trump's decision "could not have come at a better moment."

The [New York Times](#) (3/13) editorializes that Tillerson "will be remembered as one of the country's weakest and least effective secretaries of state." His ouster "most likely hinges on the fact that Mr. Trump is facing his biggest foreign policy gamble, a decision to hold direct negotiations over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, starting with face-to-face talks with the country's leader, Kim Jong-un, supposedly in May. Tough trade talks are also looming."

***CNN's Pleitgen: Russia Happy To See Tillerson Gone.*** Fred Pleitgen reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/13) that "it's safe to say the Russians are not unhappy" that Tillerson was fired. Pleitgen noted that Tillerson had some "very strong words almost immediately" after news that a former Russian spy was poisoned in the UK, while the White House "refused to name Russia as the probable culprit." Pleitgen quoted an anchor of Russia's version of "60 Minutes" as saying: "Yesterday, Tillerson supported Theresa May in her 'highly likely' Russian accusation. And Trump immediately fired him. Trump is ours!"

***WSJournal Analysis: Dinner Anecdote Exemplifies Awkward Trump-Tillerson Relationship.*** In an analysis piece, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/13, Bender, Schwartz) reports that after years as a top business executive, Tillerson had trouble adjusting to not being the person in charge – and that



affected his effectiveness as Secretary of State. Under the headline "'Rex, Eat The Salad:' Inside The Awkward Relationship Between Rex Tillerson And Donald Trump," the Journal recounts that during a dinner with China's president in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Trump and Tillerson were served plates of less-than-appetizing Caesar salad. With Tillerson seemingly avoiding his wilted salad, Trump grew concerned about a potential slight to his hosts, and told his Secretary of State, "Rex, eat the salad."

***WPost, USA Today Analyses: Senate Will Confirm Pompeo And Haspel, But It Won't Happen Fast.*** The Washington Post (3/13, Demirjian, Kim, Debonis) reports that the nominations are "likely to be hampered but not stymied by a mostly partisan backlash to their records in the administration." The Post adds that "leaders of both parties predicted Tuesday that it could take a while to confirm" them, but "the backlash is not expected to upset their eventual chances of confirmation." USA Today (3/13, Shesgreen, Kelly), in a similar report, notes that Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer "said he has not advised his fellow Democrats to oppose Pompeo or Haspel at this point, but both nominees face 'lots of outstanding questions.'"

A.B. Stoddard of Real Clear Politics, assessing Haspel's nomination, said on Fox News' Special Report (3/13), "Anything could happen," but "at this point, I think it looks fine for her."

Eamon Javers said on CNBC's Closing Bell (3/13) that during Pompeo's confirmation hearing, "expect Democrats...to really hammer Pompeo on the issue of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, an issue that he has really straddled and tried to appease his boss, but also appease the intelligence community that Pompeo leads. So, a difficult balancing act there for Pompeo coming up in his confirmation hearing."

***Media Analyses: Pompeo Likely Much More In Alignment With Trump's Policy Goals.*** Reporting on Pompeo, meanwhile, sheds a favorable light on his competence and his performance at the CIA. Some analysts, however, worry that he may be too ideological and in synch with Trump's priorities. The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Youssef) remarks on Pompeo's strong rapport with the President, and Reuters (3/13, Spetalnick) reports Pompeo "may have developed personal chemistry with...Trump by delivering his crucial morning intelligence briefings, praising him publicly and embracing his hard-line views on issues ranging from North Korea to Iran." However, "some US officials and analysts worry about what they see as the Republican former congressman's habit of telling Trump what he wants to hear, especially as the administration prepares for an unprecedented summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un."

NBC Nightly News (3/13, story 2, 2:25, Holt) reported that Pompeo "brings a hawkish approach to the business of diplomacy," and showed former CIA Director John Brennan saying, "I am concerned about Mike Pompeo's hard-line positions on a number of issues such as Iran, North

Korea. He needs, as a Secretary of the State, to stand up to the President." The New York Times (3/13, Baker, Harris, Landler) describes Pompeo as a "former Tea Party congressman, who forged a close relationship with the president and is viewed as being more in sync with Mr. Trump's America First credo." Another New York Times (3/13, Gladstone) piece says his appointment raises "the prospects of what critics called a more hawkish and rightward turn in United States foreign policy."

A third New York Times (3/13, Shane) story says that at the CIA, he "sometimes displayed the aggressive partisanship he had developed as a Republican combatant in Congress, disturbing some colleagues with hawkish policy pronouncements and political spin that were jarring in his role as intelligence adviser." Yet "the agency appreciated his clout at the White House."

Breitbart (3/13, Delingpole), on the other hand, calls Pompeo "a drastic improvement on his predecessor," as "for a start, being a skeptic, Pompeo is far less likely to undermine his president's position on energy and climate change." The Washington Post (3/13, Mooney) also reports Pompeo's "coming elevation to Secretary of State would put an official who has expressed doubts about climate science in charge of the department tasked with representing the United State at a crucial upcoming international climate summit." If confirmed by the Senate, Pompeo would lead the Department "as it participates in a key international climate meeting in Katowice, Poland, in December." The Post says environmental groups "have already begun to criticize the Pompeo appointment because of its climate change implications."

Michael O'Hanlon of the Brookings Institution writes in USA Today (3/13) that he is "encouraged that President Trump has chosen such a bright and promising new leader for Foggy Bottom, while also now planning to elevate a woman to the directorship of the CIA for the first time in our history." Added O'Hanlon, "I remain a critic of President Trump in many ways, but fortunately for the country and the world, he continues to choose talented individuals to lead his foreign policy team."

Rep. Will Herd, a former CIA officer, said on CNN's Situation Room (3/13) that Pompeo's learning curve won't be "steep" because he's already "been dealing with these issues" as CIA director.

Former Ambassador Samantha Power writes in the New York Times (3/13) that "Pompeo should start by putting forward nominations for dozens of open foreign ambassadorships (including key posts like Egypt, Jordan, South Korea, Turkey and South Africa). ... We also need to attract new Foreign Service officers. Hiring declined by more than a third from 2016 to 2017, and the number of young people seeking to take the Foreign Service exam has dropped significantly from the rates seen during the previous two administrations."

***Media Analyses: Pompeo's Ascension Could Signal End Of Iran Deal.***

Fox News' Special Report (3/13) highlighted that Pompeo has a "long history of opposing the Iran deal." Fox showed Pompeo in a recent

interview being asked if there is "anything that is good" about the deal. He responded, "I can't think of anything." Bret Baier said that with Pompeo replacing Tillerson, it "seems like we are closer to getting out of the Iran deal today than we were a week ago." The New York Times (3/13, Sanger) too says Pompeo was "among the harshest of critics of the 2015 nuclear agreement that world powers brokered with Iran," and that "if confirmed, Mr. Pompeo would take over the State Department just as the president is weighing whether to ditch the deal altogether – even if it outrages European allies." The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Gordon) runs a similar assessment.

The Washington Free Beacon (3/13, Kredo), meanwhile, reports that "in the weeks leading up to Tillerson's departure, he had been spearheading efforts to convince European allies to agree to a range of fixes to the nuclear deal that would address Iran's ongoing ballistic missile program and continued nuclear research."

***Haspel, Choice To Be CIA's First Female Director, To Face Questions About Role At Black Sites.***  ABC World News Tonight (3/13, story 3, 1:20, Muir) reported that the choice to succeed Pompeo as CIA Director is Gina Haspel, who would be the first woman to run the agency. Haspel "was in charge of one of the CIA black sites where they did so-called enhanced interrogation, including waterboarding of Al Qaeda operative Abu Zubaydah. She is no doubt going to be asked about that during confirmation hearings."

The  CBS Evening News (3/13, story 2, 1:50, Glor) reported that Sen. John McCain "said she'll have to explain her past involvement in torture," but former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell defended Haspel, telling CBS News, "Hundred of people were involved in the enhanced interrogation techniques program. All of those people operated under the President's direction with the national security team's approval, with the approval of the attorney general, who said this is legal. It wasn't torture. And with the full briefing of the Congress. None of those people should be held to a higher standard today than they were held to at the time." Morell said Haspel is "highly regarded" within the agency. He added that "given her career as an operations officer," she will be a "natural" at penetrating Russia, North Korea, ISIS, and al Qaeda, which are some of the biggest challenges for the CIA.

Jennifer Griffin reported on  Fox News' Special Report (3/13) that Haspel, who "oversaw covert action and ran the CIA black site in Thailand," also "ordered the destruction of waterboarding tapes, according to her boss who wrote about it." At any rate, the Washington Times (3/13, Taylor) reports, Haspel "was long ago cleared of wrongdoing."

A number of other print reports echo the same themes. Bloomberg News (3/13, Syeed) says she "would make history as the first female director of the intelligence agency, but first she'll face questions about her past role in US interrogation programs overseas." Reuters (3/13) reports that she "is supported by many in the US intelligence community," and the

AP (3/13, Riechmann) says that "colleagues describe her as a seasoned veteran who would lead the CIA with integrity," while "human rights advocates see her as someone who supervised torture at a secret prison." The Washington Post (3/13, Miller, Harris), meanwhile, sees her as "a woman who spent multiple tours overseas and is respected by the workforce but is deeply tied to the agency's use of brutal interrogation measures on terrorism suspects." Jameel Jaffer, "formerly deputy legal director of the ACLU, said Tuesday on his Twitter feed that Haspel is 'quite literally a war criminal.'"

The New York Times (3/13, Goldman) says "Haspel's time running the prison, code-named Cat's Eye, began her deep involvement in the agency's counterterrorism operations and showed her willingness to take part in the agency's rendition, detention and interrogation program, which shaped her career." She "was a rising star until that dark chapter in C.I.A. history began to emerge publicly," but "under...Trump, her fortunes changed." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/13) says "Haspel is reportedly respected by many CIA agents," but "she effectively ran an illegal program, and her promotion to such a top administration position, unless she forcefully renounces the use of torture during her confirmation hearing, would send an undeniable signal to the agency, and the country, that Mr. Trump is indifferent to this brutality."

Politico (3/13, Lima) reports former CIA Director Brennan, "who tapped Haspel to serve as deputy director of operations in 2013, praised her 'wealth of experience' in responding to news of the selection on Tuesday, while acknowledging her role in carrying out controversial intelligence gathering practices."

Already, the Washington Times (3/13, Boyer, Dinan) reports, "one influential Democrat," Sen. Ron Wyden, "announced Tuesday he'll vote against...Haspel...saying her 'background makes her unsuitable to serve.'"

The Daily Caller (3/13, Johnson) reports "Mike Rogers, former Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said of Haspel in a statement: 'I have had the privilege to work with Ms. Haspel during challenging and intense times for our nation's security. She is an exceptional leader, patriot and consummate professional. She showed the savvy and grit needed in difficult situations that has garnered respect of colleagues and adversaries alike. Her commitment to the mission and rule of law are unparalleled.'"

The Washington Times (3/13, Persons) reports Sen. Tom Cotton said Tuesday that Haspel "will likely face questions about her position on torture, but he said those questions should not hold her back." Said Cotton, "I think the universal respect she commands within the CIA and the broader intelligence community, to include from some of the Obama intelligence officials, just goes to show what good hands the CIA will be in."

### **Trump Stresses Need For Border Wall, Blasts California Policies.**

President Trump's trip to California receives fairly light media coverage,

with only one of the network news broadcasts reporting on the visit and relatively sparse print and online reporting. Generally, the coverage focuses on Trump's tour of the prototypes for the wall along the US-Mexico border and his comments about the impact the wall will have in reducing the flow of drugs and undocumented immigrants across the border. To a lesser extent, the coverage highlights Trump's criticism of California for refusing to cooperate with federal immigration officials, and Gov. Jerry Brown, who he said is doing a "terrible job."

KUSI-TV (3/13, 5:14 p.m. PDT) reported that Trump went to California "with a large agenda including meeting with our military and touring prototypes for his major campaign promise, the border wall." Trump "spoke on the importance of the trip and the necessity of border security comparing today to decades ago when the US was without stable border protection." Trump: "This is what it was in the 1990s. It was an open wound, frankly. It was really, really bad. People just pouring across. Drugs, everything else just pouring across. Now of course, you have a much bigger, worldwide drug problem. If we ever had nothing here – we have a lousy wall over here now – but at least it stops 90-95 percent. When we put up the real wall, we're going to stop 99 percent, maybe more than that."

The San Diego Union-Tribune (3/13, Davis) reports that Trump "got a firsthand look...at the massive border wall prototypes," and used the trip "to champion his plan for border security, insult the state for policies that are friendly to unauthorized immigrants and renew his call to Congress to fund a proposed \$18 billion wall." Trump also made "remarks to military personnel representing all five branches at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar," where he "was welcomed with cheering and applause." In his remarks, Trump "new military aircraft and pay raises, pledged to re-enter the space race...lauded the successful fight against the Islamic State and reiterated his call for border security."

Breitbart (3/13, Pollak) features photos of Trump's inspection of the border wall prototypes and says he "told reporters that he preferred prototypes that had some 'see-through capability' so that Border Patrol agents could see what, and who, was on the other side." Trump said, "You have to know what's on the other side of the wall. ... You could be two feet away from a cartel, and you don't even know they're there." The Los Angeles Times (3/13, Parvini) reports that Trump "concluded his wall prototype tour" by saying, "We must enforce our laws and protect our people." Trump told reporters, "Everyday, criminals and terrorists try to infiltrate our country. ... The border wall is truly our first line of defense.... It will save thousands and thousands of lives" and will save "hundreds of billions of dollars." In a brief report, the CBS Evening News (3/13, story 8, 0:30, Glor) reported that Trump "says that existing fences aren't tall enough to keep undocumented immigrants out." Trump: "Getting over the top is easy. These are, like, professional mountain climbers. They're incredible climbers. They can't climb some of these walls. Some of them

they can. Those are the walls we're not using."

KNBC-TV Los Angeles (3/13, 5:14 p.m. PDT) reported that it "did some fact checking" of Trump's claim that "once the wall is beefed up, then drugs will stop pouring through and the wall will pay for itself." KNBC added that Trump said the wall "will stop illegal drugs from coming into the US," but the DEA "found in its own study, one of the main ways illegal drugs get across the border is by smugglers driving them through US ports of entry. Dealers are using tunnels, drones and where there is a wall, catapults." KNBC added that Trump "says the \$18 billion wall will pay for itself, citing a study which estimates if illegal border crossers can't get through, that will lead to future savings." The Cato Institute "counters that fact. The wall will have to stop 134 to 171% border crossers that are even estimated to come over the next 10 years, that's to break even with the cost to build and maintain the wall. And that, the Institute says, is mathematically impossible."

The AP (3/14, Watson, Colvin) reports that Trump "accused California of putting 'the entire nation at risk' by refusing to take tough action against illegal immigration." Trump used the visit "to denounce the liberal state for refusing to cooperate with federal immigration authorities, saying the policy is the 'best friend' of criminals." The Washington Post (3/13, Wagner) says Trump "trashed" California Gov. Jerry Brown, saying he is a "nice guy" but doing a "terrible job." Trump said, "I think Governor Brown does a very poor job running California. ... They have the highest taxes in the United States. The place is totally out of control. You have sanctuary cities where you have criminals living in the sanctuary cities." Noting that he owns property in the state, Trump added, "The taxes are way, way out of whack, and people are going to start to move pretty soon."

The Daily Caller (3/13, Johnson) says Trump "tore into Brown," saying he "has not done the job. The taxes are double and triple what they should be. Everybody that lives in California they know it." The New York Times (3/13, Baker, Arango) says Trump "unloaded" on Brown and Brown responded on Trump's "favorite medium," tweeting, "Thanks for the shout-out, @realDonaldTrump. ... But bridges are still better than walls. And California remains the 6th largest economy in the world and the most prosperous state in America. #Facts."

Under the headline, "Trump Runs For Reelection Against CA 'Sanctuary Cities,'" the Sacramento (CA) Bee (3/13, Koseff) says Trump's "harsh message revealed nearly everything you need to know about what Trump thinks of California - and why the country's largest, and most proudly liberal, state may be his ticket back to the White House in 2020." California Democrats "have positioned themselves as a bulwark in the anti-Trump 'resistance,' and boosted their political prospects in the process," and Trump "has pushed back with equal vigor, rallying his supporters in the process." The Bee describes Trump's visit as "a finger in the state's eye" as state leaders "strongly oppose the border wall project."

KSWB-TV San Diego (3/13, 5:08 p.m. PDT) described "an intense

few hours as Trump supporters celebrated the man they have to get into office. It was Trump's first trip to California since becoming the 45th President and supporters were beaming with pride." KSWB added that "others had a different feeling. ... The President was close by as a rally was held in a parking lot here with Tijuana and the border in view. Those here not all that pleased with Trump's visit and certainly not happy with his border wall or his policies in general."

***Trump Tweets Video Of His Visit To Border.*** The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/13, Carranza) reports that Trump "wasted no time to promote his visit, releasing a 40-second video with images of the president walking among the prototypes and talking to border agents." Trump posted the video on Twitter "about two hours after leaving the site of the prototypes, and even before he was scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles for his next event on Tuesday, a fundraiser in Beverly Hills." In an accompanying [tweet](#), Trump wrote, "If we don't have a wall system, we're not going to have a country. ... Congress must fund the BORDER WALL & prohibit grants to sanctuary jurisdictions that threaten the security of our country & the people of our country. We must enforce our laws & protect our people! #BuildTheWall"

***LATimes Analysis: Anti-Trump Protest Outside Fundraiser "Resembled A Festival."*** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/13, Etehad) reports that a demonstration against Trump outside a fundraiser at the Beverly Gardens Park in Beverly Hills "resembled a festival more than a protest. Street vendors sold hotdogs, a live band played music and a stage was set up for speakers." The protest "brought a wide array of activists, including LGBTQ and immigrant right groups."

***Cato Scholars Consider Constitutionality Of California Sanctuary Policies.*** In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/13), Ilya Shapiro and Josh Blackman of the Cato Institute consider California's three sanctuary policies, and conclude that the California Values Act, which limits state and local officials' cooperation with federal immigration officials, does not amount to obstruction or interference, while the policy requiring the state attorney general to inspect and review detention facilities, and the Immigrant Worker Protection Act, which prohibits business owners from consenting to a search of his business by federal immigration officers, are unconstitutional.

### **Sources Say Trump Getting Ready For Crackdown On Trade With China.**

[Politico](#) (3/13, Behsudi, Restuccia) reports that President Trump "is getting ready to crack down on China." The President "told Cabinet secretaries and top advisers during a meeting at the White House last week that he wanted to soon hit China with steep tariffs and investment restrictions in response to allegations of intellectual property theft," according to three people familiar with the discussions. During the meeting, USTR Lighthizer reportedly "presented Trump with a package of tariffs that would target the equivalent of \$30 billion a year in Chinese imports," and Trump "urged

Lighthizer to aim for an even bigger number." The President also reportedly "instructed administration officials to be ready for a formal announcement in the coming weeks."

Appearing on Fox News' Ingraham Angle (3/13), Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker said of Trump, "I wish he would focus more on China. ... It looks like we are trying to punish our allies when the focus should be multilaterally against China. So, I don't like the way we are going about it. ... [China is] producing 49% of the world's steel...and over time, they are the entity that's stealing our intellectual property."

***McConnell Says Senate Will Not Block Tariffs.*** The Washington Examiner (3/13, Ferrechio) reports in a brief item that Senate Majority Leader McConnell told reporters Tuesday that the Senate "would not take up legislation that would block President Trump's planned tariffs on aluminum and steel because Trump would not sign it." McConnell said, "The thought that the President would sign a bill that would undo actions he's taken strikes me as remote, at best. ... So I think it's highly unlikely we'd be dealing with that in a legislative way." However, McConnell said senators "harbor 'a lot of concern' about the tariffs and the impact on the economy."

The Washington Post (3/13) says in an editorial that Republicans must decide whether to continue down their traditional free-trade path or to follow Trump's moves toward protectionism.

***China Already Forcing Steel And Aluminum Factories To Close.*** The New York Times (3/13, Bradsher, Tang) reports that "many Chinese officials agree" with US officials that China "has too many steel and aluminum factories." Even as Beijing "makes veiled threats to retaliate" against the US over Trump's tariffs, "it is forcing many Chinese companies to close wasteful, polluting factories," promoting "more high-value, high-tech products instead – the kind that would compete with American goods on a whole new level."

### **Sources: Trump Considering Replacing Shulkin With Perry.**

Citing "three advisers to the President," the Washington Post (3/13, Rein, Dawsey) reports President Trump is "souring on his embattled Veterans Affairs secretary, David Shulkin, and telling aides he might replace him as part of a broader shake-up of his Cabinet." As Trump "seeks to widen a changing of the guard that started Tuesday with his firing of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Shulkin could be next, the advisers said." In fact, "senior White House officials said Shulkin could be forced out within days." According to the New York Times (3/13, Haberman, Fandos), the President is considering replacing Shulkin with Energy Secretary Perry, who met with Trump at the White House on Monday. Trump, however, "did not make a formal offer to Mr. Perry," and it was "unclear if Mr. Perry, who was an Air Force pilot before entering politics, would accept the change in position if Mr. Trump offered it, or if Mr. Trump had a successor in mind to lead the Energy Department."

The AP (3/14, Yen, Miller) reports Shulkin "did not respond to



requests for comment," but says he "has been holding on to his job by a thread since a bruising internal report found ethics violations in connection with his trip to Europe with his wife last summer." A spokeswoman for Perry also had no comment.

### **Lamb Holds 579-Vote Lead Over Saccone In PA18 Special Election.**

With all precincts reporting in the PA18 special election, Democrat Conor Lamb has 113,111 votes (49.8%), Republican Rick Saccone 112,532 (49.6%), and Libertarian Drew Miller 1,372 (0.6%). A number of absentee ballots have yet to be counted, and the Associated Press has not yet called the race. In 2016, President Trump won 58% of the vote in the district, which has been solidly Republican in House races since 2002. Media outlets are casting Tuesday's results as an ominous sign for Republicans heading into November's midterm elections.

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (3/13, Tamari) writes that the contest "left both parties in suspense – but still pointed to GOP political peril. ... Democrats had already far outperformed their historical expectations, pointing to a potential surge in congressional elections this fall." Writing for [Vox](#) (3/13, Scott), Dylan Scott said, "Republicans are in big, big, big trouble. ... There are more than 110 Republican-held House districts that Trump won by less than he won" in PA18. Democrats "need 24 seats to reclaim the House majority. If Tuesday night is any guide, it looks like they are going to have a lot of opportunities to get them." [Roll Call](#) (3/13, Bowman) also reports that "the narrow margin in a traditionally GOP district is sure to energize Democrats heading into the midterms, where they are targeting districts less Republican than this seat."

The [New York Times](#) (3/13, Martin, Burns) said that though the race "was too close to call early Wednesday," the results were still "an ominous sign for Republicans." [Reuters](#) (3/13) reports that President Trump visited twice in support of Saccone, "and on Tuesday he again voiced backing for the Republican," [tweeting](#), "The Economy is raging, at an all time high, and is set to get even better. Jobs and wages up. Vote for Rick Saccone and keep it going!"

The [Washington Post](#) (3/13, Weigel, Viebeck) reports, "While the number of outstanding absentee ballots is larger than the gap between Lamb and Saccone, Democrats ended election night confident that Saccone would not win them by a large enough margin to pull ahead." [The Hill](#) (3/13, Samuels) reports that the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee "declared victory in" in the contest, "even as experts declared the race too close to call." However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14, Epstein) reports that Saccone told supporters, "We're not giving up. We're going to win it."

### **Trump Voices Support For "Space Force," Says US Will Go Mars "Very Soon."**

[Politico](#) (3/13, Lima) reports that President Trump on Tuesday predicted

that the nation would reach Mars “very soon” and voiced support for the creation of a militaristic “space force,” seeming to back “a measure that faced opposition from officials in his own administration.” Speaking to service members in Miramar, California, Trump said that “very soon we’re going to Mars,” adding, “You wouldn’t have been going to Mars if my opponent won, that I can tell you. You wouldn’t even be thinking about it.” Trump also expressed support for creating a “space force,” saying, “My new national strategy for space recognizes that space is a warfighting domain, just like the land, air and sea. ... We may even have a space force — develop another one, space force. We have the Air Force, we’ll have the space force.”

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

#### **New York Times.**

***“Having A Torturer Lead The CIA.”*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/13) says CIA deputy director Gina Haspel, who President Trump has selected to replace CIA Director Pompeo, “is reportedly respected by many CIA agents,” but “she effectively ran an illegal program, and her promotion to such a top administration position, unless she forcefully renounces the use of torture during her confirmation hearing, would send an undeniable signal to the agency, and the country, that Mr. Trump is indifferent to this brutality.”

***“Trump May Make America Miss Rex Tillerson.”*** In its editorial, the New York Times (3/13) says outgoing Secretary of State Tillerson “will be remembered as one of the country’s weakest and least effective secretaries of state,” yet “his replacement is likely to be worse.”

***“Deadly Corruption In Honduras.”*** The New York Times (3/13) editorializes that the arrest of Roberto David Castillo Mejía, the latest person to be implicated in the murder of activist Berta Cáceres, suggests the United States’ pressure on the Honduran government has helped solve Cáceres’ case. However, it remains unclear “whether the arrest represents a fundamental change in Honduras or merely the sacrifice of a scapegoat in a case that got too big.” Indeed, the Trump Administration “kept quiet” after Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández “twisted the law to run for re-election and win a” highly dubious vote. The editors write that although Hernández “may not be directly involved in the murder of Ms. Cáceres,” the United States cannot enable corrupt politics if it wants to ensure “that hers will not be the last killing.”

***“America Has Failed Its Kids On Guns. It’s Time To Let Them Lead.”*** A New York Times (3/13) editorial expresses hope that adults will respond to “the young people leading Wednesday’s walkout at schools around the country” and participating in the “March for Our Lives” demonstration “by amplifying their demand: Never again.” The Times says unlike adults in the wake of the Parkland school shooting, young people “have had the courage to take on the industry responsible for blocking every reasonable measure to limit access to guns, including those that make it all too easy to commit

mass murder.”

### **Washington Post.**

**“Republicans Must Choose: Trump Or Trade?”** The [Washington Post](#) (3/13) says in an editorial that Republicans must decide whether to continue down their traditional free-trade path or to follow President Trump’s moves toward protectionism.

**“At ICE, The Truth Is Malleable.”** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/13) calls acting ICE Director Homan’s suggestion that “more than 800 ‘criminal aliens’ were at large in Northern California because the mayor of Oakland had tipped them off” a “risible exaggeration” and “the sort of blithe fiction the Trump administration usually peddles without public pushback from career civil servants. Not this time,” as James Schwab, the agency’s San Francisco spokesman “resigned in protest.” The Post says “immigration officials such as Mr. Homan appear to believe they are involved in a sort of war. And in war, the first casualty is invariably the truth.”

**“Trump Humiliates Rex Tillerson For The Last Time.”** The [Washington Post](#) (3/13), editorializes that while Rex Tillerson “was poorly cast as secretary of state,” none of his perceived weaknesses “appear to explain” his dismissal via tweet, which the Post calls “the last of many humiliations the president inflicted on his top diplomat.” The Post calls for strong questioning of both Pompeo and President Trump’s nominee for his replacement, Gina Haspel.

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**“Pompeo’s Promise At State.”** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/13) criticizes the manner of Secretary of State Tillerson’s firing, but praises CIA Director Pompeo’s selection to replace him.

**“Hillary Clinton Leans Out.”** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/13) criticizes Hillary Clinton as contemptible for claiming this week in India that racism and sexism were behind her loss to President Trump. The Journal says Clinton’s remarks recalled her “deplorables” remark from during the 2016 presidential campaign.

**“Trump’s Broadcom Veto.”** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/13) says that the Administration’s national security concerns about Broadcom’s takeover of Qualcomm are legitimate, but that the issue became politicized. The Journal warns against expanding the review powers of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, arguing that CFIUS’ current mandate is sufficient.

### **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Tillerson Is Out As Secretary Of State; Trump Taps Pompeo](#)  
[North Korea, Iran Will Test Pompeo In New Diplomatic Role](#)

Ten Years After The Bear Stearns Bailout, Nobody Thinks It Would Happen Again  
How Your Returns Are Used Against You At Best Buy, Other Retailers

***New York Times:***

Firing Tillerson, Trump Starts To Mold Cabinet In His Own Image  
Joseph Percoco, Ex-Cuomo Aide, Found Guilty In Corruption Trial  
House Race In Pennsylvania Is Too Close To Call Winner  
Stephen Hawking, Whose Mind Roamed The Cosmos, Is Dead At 76  
As Putin Opponents Flocked To London, His Spies Followed  
Celebrated Architect Is Accused Of Sexual Harassment

***Washington Post:***

Via Assange, Stone Knew Of Emails In 2016  
Pa. Race Remains Agonizingly Close  
Address On Package May Add To Austin Mystery  
Tillerson Out At State Dept.  
In Pompeo, Trump Has A Like-Minded Ally  
President Follows Gut, Not Advisers, In Recent Moves

***Financial Times:***

Donald Trump Sacks Rex Tillerson As US Secretary Of State  
Deadline Passes On UK Sanctions Threat Against Russia  
China's Sovereign Wealth Fund Sells Stake In Blackstone  
Trump's Broadcom Block Sends Ripples Across Corporate America

***Washington Times:***

Trump Ousts Tillerson, Taps CIA Director Pompeo For State Dept.  
Haspel's 'Black Site' Past A Hurdle To Confirmation As CIA Director  
Appeals Court Backs Texas, Trump In Sanctuary City Fight  
Democrats Whip Up Outrage Over Farrakhan's Praise Of CBC Members,  
Women's March Co-President  
Cousins Set To Sign Most Lucrative Contract In NFL History

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** State Department Staff Change; White House Staff Change; State Dept., CIA Staff Pick; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Alabama Bus Crash; Texas-Serial Bomber; UK-Russian Mystery Death; Pennsylvania Special Elections; Florida School Shooter Trial; United Air-Criticism; Self Defense Murder Trial; Home Invasion Filmed; Solar Storm; Pope-Fifth Year Anniversary.

**CBS:** State Department Staff Change; CIA Director Pick; Minnesota Mosque Bombing Suspects; Severe Weather; Texas-Serial Bomber; Alabama Bus Crash; UK-Russian Mystery Death; Trump-Border Wall; Pennsylvania Special Elections; United Air-Criticism; Florida School Shooter Trial; White House Staff Change; CBS News History; Disable Veteran

Athlete.

**NBC:** State Department Staff Change; State Dept., CIA Staff Pick; White House Staff Change; Alabama Bus Crash; Severe Weather; Texas-Serial Bomber; Florida School Shooter Trial; UK-Russian Mystery Death; Pennsylvania Special Elections; Store Return Watchlist; United Air-Criticism; Netflix Pay; Teachers-Women's Rights.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

State Department Staff Change – 15 minutes, 25 seconds

Severe Weather – 7 minutes, 5 seconds

Pennsylvania Special Elections – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

UK-Russian Mystery Death – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

United Air-Criticism – 3 minutes, 20 seconds

White House Staff Change – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

Texas-Serial Bomber – 2 minutes, 25 seconds

Florida School Shooter Trial – 1 minutes, 20 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Pennsylvania Special Elections; Trump-Border Wall Visit; Texas Sanctuary Cities-Lawsuit; Minnesota Mosque Bombing Suspects.

**CBS:** Pennsylvania Special Elections; State Department Staff Change; Trump-Border Wall Visit; Minnesota Mosque Bombing Suspects; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Pennsylvania Special Elections; State Department Staff Change; Trump-Border Wall Visit.

**NPR:** State Department Staff Change; Pennsylvania Special Elections; Texas-Serial Bomber; Stephen Hawking Dies.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Visits Boeing plant in St. Louis to discuss tax cuts and economic growth.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a swearing-in ceremony for Russ Vought as the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

**US Senate:** 8:00 AM Republican Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst host reception for Iowans visiting Washington, DC, during spring break  
Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 325, Washington, DC  
<http://grassley.senate.gov/public/> <https://twitter.com/ChuckGrassley>

9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the Parkland, FL, school shootings and school safety – Hearing on 'See Something, Say Something: Oversight of the Parkland Shooting and Legislative Proposals to Improve School Safety', with testimony from bipartisan Sens. Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Acting Director Thomas Brandon; FBI Acting Deputy Director David Bowdich; U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center Chief Dr

Lina Alathari; Ryan Petty – father of Parkland, FL, shooting victim Alaina Petty; Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School teacher Katherine Posada; and Internet Association President and CEO Michael Beckerman \* 17 people were shot dead at Stoneman Douglas in Parkland last month. The incident drew attention to gun control, especially concerns over access to assault rifles and insufficient background checks. A number of students at the school have become prominent members of protest movements, while the incident has strongly highlighted the responses of Members of Congress, President Donald Trump, and the National Rifle Association  
 Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC  
<http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans holds organizational meeting – Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans holds Executive Session, to organize the committee \* Committee was created as part of the budget agreement that passed Congress in February, featuring four members from each party from each chamber, and has been tasked with reporting a bill to 'solve the pension crisis' by the end of November  
 Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 215, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM House / Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees hear legislative presentation from vets groups – House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs joint hearing on 'Legislative Presentations of Multiple VSOs', with testimony from Fleet Reserve Association National President William Starkey; Jewish War Veterans National Commander Dr Paul Warner; Air Force Sergeants Association International President Jeff Ledoux; Blinded Veterans Association Vice President Paul Mimms; Military Order of the Purple Heart National Commander Neil Van Ess; National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs President Verdie Bowen; Military Officers Association of America Senior Director for Government Relations Rene Campos; The Retired Enlisted Association National President John Adams; and Gold Star Wives of America's Cyndie Gibson  
 Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on Somalia – Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'Somalia's Current Security and Stability Status', with testimony from Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (Somalia) Executive Director Abdirashid Hashi; American University School of Public Affairs Assistant Professor Dr Tricia Bacon; Refugees International U.N. Liaison and Senior Advocate Mark Yarnell; and International Crisis Group Deputy Program Director for Africa Dr EJ Hogendoorn  
 Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment & Public Works Committee hearing on the ACRE Act – Hearing on 'S. XX, the Agriculture Creates Real Employment (ACRE) Act', with testimony from Wyoming Department of

Agriculture Director Doug Miyamoto; American Farm Bureau Federation Director of Congressional Relations Ryan Yates; and Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Lecturer Jim Lyons Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Five Cabinet members testify to Senate committee hearing on administration's infrastructure plan – Hearing on 'Rebuilding Infrastructure in America: Administration Perspectives', with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao; and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross; Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta; Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; and Secretary of Energy Rick Perry Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on DOE atomic energy defense activities and programs – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of Energy Atomic Energy Defense Activities and Programs', with testimony from Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management James Owendoff; National Nuclear Security Administration Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors Adm. James Caldwell Jr.; and Government Accountability Office Director of Natural Resources and Environment David Trimble Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 232A, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Oversight hearing on 'Opioids in Indian Country: Beyond the Crisis to Healing the Community' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on food security – Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'Why Food Security Matters', with testimony from World Food Programme Executive Director David Beasley; USAID Office of Food for Peace Acting Director Matthew Nims; World Food Programme USA Director of Public Policy and Research Dr Chase Sova; Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John Castellaw; and CARE USA President and CEO Michelle Nunn Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including the nominations of David Tryon to be Small Business Administration Chief Counsel for Advocacy, and Hannibal Ware to be SBA Inspector General; plus 'S. 526, Microloan Modernization Act of 2017', 'S. 791, Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2017', 'S. 1538, Small Business Employee Ownership Promotion Enhancement Act of 2017', 'S. 1961, SBIR and STTR Oversight and Pilot Program Extension Act of 2017', 'S. 1995, Spurring Business in Communities Act of 2017', 'S. 2283, Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act of 2017', 'S. 2419, Support Startup Businesses Act of 2018',

and 'S. 2527, A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC  
<http://sbc.senate.gov/>

**US House:** 10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USACE and USBR budgets – Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation', with testimony from Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R. D. James; USACE Commanding General and Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite; Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science Dr Timothy Petty; and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2362-B, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on DOE modernization – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'DOE Modernization: Legislation Addressing Cybersecurity and Emergency Response', with testimony from Under Secretary of Energy Mark Menezes; Edison Electric Institute Vice President for Security and Preparedness Scott Aaronson; Dominion Energy Senior Enterprise Security Advisor Mark Engels; National Electrical Manufacturers Association Vice President for Government Relations Kyle Pitsor; Idaho National Laboratory Associate Director for National and Homeland Security Zachary Tudor; and Indiana Office of Energy Development Director Tristan Vance Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC  
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House / Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees hear legislative presentation from vets groups – House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs joint hearing on 'Legislative Presentations of Multiple VSOs', with testimony from Fleet Reserve Association National President William Starkey; Jewish War Veterans National Commander Dr Paul Warner; Air Force Sergeants Association International President Jeff Ledoux; Blinded Veterans Association Vice President Paul Mimms; Military Order of the Purple Heart National Commander Neil Van Ess; National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs President Verdie Bowen; Military Officers Association of America Senior Director for Government Relations Rene Campos; The Retired Enlisted Association National President John Adams; and Gold Star Wives of America's Cyndie Gibson Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Tax Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'Post Tax Reform Evaluation of Recently Expired Tax Provisions' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USAF



budget – Defense Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Air Force Budget', with testimony from Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson; and U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein Location: U.S. Capitol, H-140, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Armed Services Committee hearing on space warfighting readiness – Hearing on 'Space Warfighting Readiness: Policies, Authorities, and Capabilities', with testimony from former U.S. Strategic Command Commander Gen. (Ret.) Robert Kehler; former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy Doug Loverro; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Aerospace Security Project Director Todd Harrison Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

10:00 AM House Budget Committee concludes series of hearings on oversight of the CBO – Hearing on 'CBO Oversight: Perspectives from Outside Experts', with testimony from former Congressional Budget Office Directors Dr Alice Rivlin and Dr Doug Holtz-Eakin; Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget President Maya MacGuineas; and Bipartisan Policy Center Senior Advisor Sandy Davis \* Concludes a series of five hearings on the CBO Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://budget.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/housebudgetgop>

10:00 AM House Science Committee hearing on the National Labs – Hearing on 'National Laboratories: World-Leading Innovation in Science', with testimony from Idaho National Laboratory director Dr Mark Peters; Sandia National Laboratory advanced science & technology associate labs director and chief research officer Dr Susan Seestrom; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory associate director for biosciences Dr Mary Maxon; National Accelerator Laboratory Stanford Linear Accelerator Center director Dr Chi-Chang Kao; and Argonne National Laboratory director Dr Paul Kearns Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Government Reform Committee hearing on the federal regulatory process – Hearing on 'Shining Light on the Federal Regulatory Process', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Strategic Issues Division Acting Director Kris Nguyen; American Forest and Paper Association Vice President of Public Policy Paul Noe; National Federation of Independent Business Small Business Legal Center Executive Director Karen Harned; Yale Law School Professor Nicholas Parrillo; Public Citizen Regulatory Policy Advocate Amit Narang Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on export controls – Hearing on 'Modernizing Export Controls: Protecting Cutting-Edge Technology and U.S. National Security', with testimony from former

Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Mario Mancuso; former Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs Alan Larson; and former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration Kevin Wolf Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>  
<https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the cryptocurrencies and ICO markets – Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Cryptocurrencies and ICO Markets', with testimony from Georgetown University Law Center Professor Dr Chris Brummer; Coinbase Chief Legal and Risk Officer Mike Lempres; Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati partner Robert Rosenblum; and Coin Center Director of Research Peter Van Valkenburgh Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC  
<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on ADUFA and AGDUFA reauthorization – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Reauthorization of Animal Drug User Fees 2018: ADUFA and AGDUFA', with testimony from Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine Director Dr Steven Solomon; Animal Health Institute Animal Drugs Section Director of Regulatory Affairs Dr Rachel Cumberbatch; Generic Animal Drug Alliance Chairman Dr Bill Zollers; and American Veterinary Medical Association's Dr Michael Topper Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC  
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:15 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 401, To designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 3008, George W. Bush Childhood Home Study Act', 'H.R. 4609, West Fork Fire Station Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4851, Kennedy-King Establishment Act of 2018', 'S. 35, Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act', and 'S. 466, A bill to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>  
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

11:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee hearing on U.S. Coast Guard and maritime transportation budgets – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs', with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft; Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven Cantrell; Maritime Administration Administrator Rear Adm. (Ret.) Mark Buzby; and Federal Maritime Commission Acting Chairman Michael Khouri Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC

<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 4743, Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act of 2018’, ‘H.R. 5178, Puerto Rico Small Business Contracting Assistance Act of 2018’, ‘H.R. 3170, Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 4668, Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2655, Small Business Innovation Protection Act’, and ‘H.R. 5236, Main Street Employee Ownership Act of 2018’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM ‘The Need for Evidence-Based Strategies in Cardiovascular Disease’ PCORI / AHA briefing – ‘Preventing and Treating America’s Number One Killer: The Need for Evidence-Based Strategies in Cardiovascular Disease’ briefing hosted by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and the American Heart Association, with speakers including Republican Rep. Larry Bucshon, Alliance for Aging Research President and CEO Sue Peschin, Health Partners Institute Executive Director for Research Karen Margolis, PCORI Executive Director Joe Selby and Patient Co-Investigator Christine Norton, AHA Vice President for Federal Advocacy Sue Nelson, and former American College of Cardiology Chair of the Board of Governors Bob Shor Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2043, Washington, DC [www.pcori.org](http://www.pcori.org) <https://twitter.com/PCORI>

12:00 PM House debates TAILOR Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 1116 – TAILOR Act of 2017’, plus consideration of ‘H.R. 4909 – STOP School Violence Act of 2018’, as amended, ‘H.R. 506 – Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 3249 – Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2017’, as amended, and ‘H.R. 3996 – Protecting Access to the Courts for Taxpayers Act’ under suspension of the rules Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:15 PM House Dems call for DREAM Act be attached to omnibus spending bill – Democratic Reps. Luis Gutierrez, Adriano Espaillat, and Raul Grijalva release letter to House of Representatives and Senate leadership and appropriators, signed by a large number of Members of Congress, requesting that the DREAM Act be attached to the omnibus spending bill. Press conference also features advocates and other Members (including CHC Chair Michelle Lujan-Grisham and CAPAC Chair Judy Chu) Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC [luisgutierrez.house.gov](http://luisgutierrez.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/repgutierrez>

2:00 PM TSA Administrator Pecoske testifies to House Homeland Security subcommittee on FY’19 budget – Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining the President’s FY 2019 Budget Request for the Transportation Security Administration’, with testimony from TSA Administrator David Pecoske Location: U.S. Capitol

Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC [homeland.house.gov](http://homeland.house.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM House Government Reform subcommittees joint hearing on federal IT – Information Technology Subcommittee and Government Operations Subcommittee joint hearing on 'State of Play: Federal IT in 2018', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of IT Management Issues David Powner; Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director for Management Margaret Weichert; General Services Administration IT Category Deputy Assistant Commissioner Bill Zielinski; and Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Cybersecurity and Communications Jeanette Manfra Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Department of the Air Force FY'19 seapower budget – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of the Air Force FY 2019 Budget Request for Sea Power and Projection Forces', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition Dr William Roper; and U.S. Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans & Requirements Lt. Gen. Mark Nowland, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans & Programs Lt. Gen. Jerry Harris Jr. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 4061 – Financial Stability Oversight Council Improvement Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 4293 – Stress Test Improvement Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on FY'19 DoD science and technology budget – Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee hearing on 'A Review and Assessment of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for Department of Defense Science and Technology Programs', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Mary Miller; Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology Dr Tom Russell; Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm. David Hahn; Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Director Dr Steve Walker; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology and Engineering Jeff Stanley Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC  
[www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

**Other:** 7:30 AM ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit continues – Annual ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit continues, co-hosted by Department of Energy Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (aka ARPA-E). Event also features a technology showcase with exhibits from ARPA-E-funded projects and applicants, in areas including grid-scale storage, power electronics, electric vehicle batteries, building efficiency, advanced carbon

capture, and electrofuels. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry delivers a video message, canceling a scheduled speech due to a Senate committee hearing  
Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD National Harbor <http://www.arpae-summit.com/> <https://twitter.com/ARPAE>

8:00 AM NLC Congressional City Conference concludes – National League of Cities Congressional City Conference concludes, with speakers today including Democratic Rep. Elizabeth Esty and Republican Rep. John Katko, with agenda including Capitol Hill Advocacy Day Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC [ccc.nlg.org](http://ccc.nlg.org) <https://twitter.com/leagueofcities>

8:00 AM ACORE National Renewable Energy Policy Forum – ACORE National Renewable Energy Policy Forum, on challenges and opportunities for renewable power, key issues in the changing electricity marketplace, and priorities for Congress. Speakers include Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, and Maria Cantwell, Under Secretary of Energy Mark Menezes, FERC Commissioner Robert Powelson, PJM President and CEO Anrew Ott, JPMorgan Energy Investments Managing Director John Eber, California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Picker, and ACORE President and CEO Greg Wetstone Location: Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th St NW, Washington, DC [www.acorepolicyforum.com](http://www.acorepolicyforum.com) <https://twitter.com/ACORE>

8:00 AM CHCI Energy Summit – Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Energy Summit, 'A World In Transition', held to address emerging trends, policy issues, and opportunities in the energy sector. Speakers include Democratic Reps. Tony Cardenas, Gene Green, Raul Grijalva, Nydia Velazquez, Darren Soto, Scott Peters, and Bobby Rush, Sempra Energy Executive Vice President for Corporate Strategy and External Affairs Dennis Arriola, Smart Electric Power President and CEO Julia Hamm, Axios columnist Amy Harder and Future Editor Steve Levine, and Pepco Holdings Utility of the Future Vice President Karen Lefkowitz Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.chci.org](http://www.chci.org) <https://twitter.com/CHCI>

9:00 AM Dem Rep. Adam Smith speaks at Cato Institute on 'The Future of BRAC' – 'The Future of BRAC: A Conversation' Cato Institute Policy Forum, with Democratic Rep. Adam Smith and Cato Institute Vice President for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies Christopher Preble speaking on the Base Realignment and Closure process, including the findings of a new article they are co-publishing in Strategic Studies Quarterly about BRAC, its impact on defense communities, and the future Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.cato.org/> <https://twitter.com/CatoInstitute>

9:00 AM AEI discussion on 'Present and future dangers on the eve of Vladimir Putin's reelection' – 'Present and future dangers on the eve of Vladimir Putin's reelection' American Enterprise Institute discussion, ahead of Sunday's Russian presidential election, to mark the release of 'To Have

and to Hold: Putin's Quest for Control in the Former Soviet Empire', which details the military, political, economic, and social vulnerabilities of six of Russia's neighboring countries. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Seth Moulton and panel discussion with Agnia Grigas (Atlantic Council), Michael Kofman (Wilson Center), Mihai Popsoi (University of Milan), and Paul Stronski (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace) Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC  
<http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

9:15 AM Dem Rep. Joaquin Castro keynotes CAP event on the U.S. and Japan – 'The Future of Asia: U.S.-Japan Cooperation in Southeast Asia and Beyond' Center for American Progress discussion, on policy pathways the U.S. and Japan can take to protect democratic institutions and freedoms in Southeast Asia. Includes keynote from Democratic Rep. Joaquin Castro and panelists Congressional Research Service Specialist in Asian Affairs Emma Chanlett-Avery, Nanyang Technological University School of Social Science Public Policy and Global Affairs Program Assistant Professor Kei Koga, and Center for Strategic and International Studies Southeast Asia Program Director Amy Searight Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC  
[www.americanprogress.org](http://www.americanprogress.org) <https://twitter.com/amprog>

10:00 AM U.N. Security Council meets to discuss North Korea – United Nations Security Council meet to discuss North Korea and non-proliferation, amid a relaxing of tensions in the Korean Peninsula following the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games \* North and South Korea have also agreed to hold a leader's summit next month, with Pyongyang suggesting it may give up its nuclear weapons program if the U.S. can guarantee its safety. In a further easing of hostilities, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump have agreed to meet in person before the end of May \* Also today, meetings are held on the 1591 Committee, which oversees matters concerning Sudan, the African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and the Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Location: United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY New York City  
<http://www.un.org/en/sc/> [https://twitter.com/UN\\_News\\_Centre](https://twitter.com/UN_News_Centre)

10:00 AM Annual Energy and Environmental Symposium – Faegre Baker Daniels Fifth Annual Energy and Environmental Symposium, this year examining 'the relationship between the energy industry and infrastructure, including potential environmental issues'. Speakers include Republican Rep. Bill Shuster, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash, Council on Environmental Quality Associate Director of Infrastructure Alex Herrgott, U.S Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute Senior Vice President Christopher Guith, Reason Foundation Vice President of Policy Adrian Moore, CRH Americas Materials Vice President Ryan Lindsey, Tellurian Vice President of Government Relations Majida Mourad, and U.S. Water Services Vice President of Engineering Operations Ryan Godfrey Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.faegrebd.com/>

<https://twitter.com/FaegreBD>

10:00 AM DoJ Antitrust Division roundtable series on competition and regulation begins – New Department of Justice Antitrust Division series of three public roundtable discussions on the relationship between competition and regulation, and its implications for antitrust enforcement policy, begins. First event examines exemptions and immunities from the antitrust laws and their impact on the free market and consumers, and includes a discussion of the appropriate role of the state action doctrine in light of the broader federal policy favoring competition in interstate commerce Location: Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.justice.gov](http://www.justice.gov) <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

11:00 AM Pride Fund and Student Walkout Rally as part of National Student Walkout – Pride Fund and Student Walkout Rally, as part of the National Student Walkout protesting Congressional inaction on gun violence, following the 14 Feb shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shootings in Florida in which 17 people died. Students from at least 28 high schools in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia are joined by Democrats Sens. Chris Murphy and Chris Van Hollen and Reps. Jamie Raskin, Ted Deutch, and John Lewis Location: U.S. Capitol, between the Capitol building and the Reflecting Pool, Washington, DC [www.pridefund.org](http://www.pridefund.org) [https://twitter.com/Pride\\_Fund](https://twitter.com/Pride_Fund)

6:15 PM Research! America Advocacy Awards Event – Annual Research! America Advocacy Awards Event, honoring advocates for medical, health, and scientific research. This year's recipients are Senator Susan Collins, former Rep. John Porter, surgeon, writer, and public health researcher Atul Gawande, Fogarty International Center Director Roger Glass, Staglin Family Vineyard Founders Sharl and Garen Staglin, The EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases, and Baylor College of Medicine National School of Tropical Medicine Dean Peter Hotez Location: Andrew W Mellon Auditorium, 1301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC [http://www.researchamerica.org/advocacy\\_awards](http://www.researchamerica.org/advocacy_awards) <https://twitter.com/ResearchAmerica>

6:30 PM Ireland Funds National Gala – Ireland Funds National Gala, honoring Bank of America Vice Chair Anne Finucane and North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey with The Ireland Funds 2018 Leadership Award. Gala also marks the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement (20 Apr), with special recognition of Republican Rep. Peter King and Democratic Rep. Richard Neal. Attendees include Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar, Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Daniel Mulhall and British Ambassador to the U.S. Sir Kim Darroch Location: National Building Museum, 440 G St. NW, Washington, DC [www.irelandfunds.org](http://www.irelandfunds.org) <https://twitter.com/TheIrelandFunds>

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

*Jimmy Kimmel:* "Putting Republican members in the House in charge of

finding out if there was collusion between Trump and Russia is like finding a team of raccoons finding out who is knocking over the trash every night.”

**Jimmy Kimmel:** [Referring to the firing of State Secretary Rex Tillerson] “Trump said he made the decision ‘by myself.’ Like a five-year-old. ‘I did it all by myself.’ Of course you did it, there’s no one left at the White House.”

**Stephen Colbert:** “Yesterday, Tillerson said the nerve agent came from Russia and that ‘it will certainly trigger a response.’ It certainly did. ... Russia has denied the whole thing, and the only thing worse than contradicting your boss is contradicting your boss’s boss. ”

**Stephen Colbert:** “Last night, Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee announced they were ending their investigation into Russian election meddling and concluded that Russian President Vladimir Putin was not trying to help Donald Trump win the 2016 election. After a year-long investigation, they have examined all the evidence and have concluded they did not want to get sprayed with a nerve agent.”

**James Corden:** “There was some shocking news out of Washington this morning. Donald Trump fired his Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson. This surprised me mostly because I thought Tillerson got fired months ago. If you don’t know who Rex Tillerson is, he’s the old rich white guy that worked for Trump. No, not that one, the other one. No, not that one either.”

**James Corden:** “‘Congratulations to all?’ Did [President Trump] just congratulate someone that he fired? Then again, maybe even Trump realizes that getting to leave his White House calls for a celebration. But this story gets even weirder because, a few hours later, Trump also fired Rex Tillerson’s undersecretary of state for contradicting Trump’s account of how Rex Tillerson was fired. Congratulations to all!”

**James Corden:** “Also today, I’m not kidding, Trump fired his longtime personal assistant, John McEntee, for being under investigation for serious financial crimes. Congratulations to all!”

**Trevor Noah:** “The GOP-led House Intelligence Committee declared Donald Trump innocent. It’s like your aroma therapist telling you, you don’t have



cancer. Not remotely credible, but makes you feel good.”

**Trevor Noah:** “Today, the President spent time at the border checking out the world’s largest Lego projects. ... You know Trump went to the border today because it’s Taco Tuesday. Nice move, Mr. President.”

**Trevor Noah:** “Rex was only one of three people who were fired today. Yeah, his aide was fired for explaining how Tillerson was fired, and Trump’s personal assistant was fired for possible financial crimes. Yeah, working for the White House is basically like being in a ‘Saw’ movie. You show up, get tortured for a while, and get killed off.”

**Trevor Noah:** “Trump is right – Rex Tillerson will be much happier now. Everyone who leaves the White House ends up happier. [*He shows pictures of Sean Spicer, Anthony Scaramucci, and Barack Obama, all looking happy.*] Just look at this guy, this guy or this guy, and especially this guy. Why are you so happy, Obama?”

**Trevor Noah:** “So a former Russian spy living in England is out with his daughter. This is the story. They go to a pub, pizza, pizza place, and shortly afterwards are found poisoned. Yeah, now everyone is, like, ‘It’s the Russians.’ How do they know? Maybe he just ate British pizza. Maybe it’s that bad.”

**Jimmy Fallon:** “Today, President Trump announced on Twitter that he fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. People said, ‘Can you believe that he was so disrespectful to a Secretary of State?’ Then Hillary Clinton said, ‘Yes, actually, I can.’”

**Jimmy Fallon:** “I read that people close to Tillerson said there wasn’t a single hint that he’d be fired. Though in fairness, there was one huge hint: He worked for Donald Trump. So I mean, that’s what he does.”

**Seth Meyers:** “President Trump has fired Rex Tillerson, his Secretary of State, which I think means the only remaining White House staffers are Mike Pence and a Roomba.”

**Seth Meyers:** “First thing, Tillerson found out that he was fired from a

Trump tweet. Even when you get fired from Domino's, the manager takes you into that...little office and tells you to your face."

**Seth Meyers:** "If you're going to fire cabinet secretaries for being bad at their jobs, let me refer you to Betsy DeVos' appearance on 60 Minutes. Not only was she wildly uninformed, but "60 Minutes" was also her longest work day so far."

**Conan O'Brien:** "Rex Tillerson reportedly doesn't know why he was fired. Yeah, at least according to Tillerson's roommates, Sean Spicer and Omarosa."

**Jordan Klepper:** "No collusion! This is, obviously, huge news. Trump finally vindicated after a year-long investigation, and boy, does it feel good. It's like how I trained a year for that marathon and then just drove to the finish line. Now, of course, this is just one of five investigations into Trump-Russia collusion. There's also the two in the Senate, the Mueller witch hunt, and the most dogged investigation, Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Soggy Mattress. Now, the House Intelligence Committee finished first, which, therefore, makes it the best."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-03-14T14:02:21-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ryan's trip with Tom.  
**Received:** 2018-03-14T14:03:10-04:00

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Lolita Zinke <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** 03/07/2018 20:33 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** ryanzinke <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ryan's trip with Tom.

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

**From:** **David Monahan** <dmonahan@aloha.net>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 6:38 PM  
**Subject:** Ryan's trip with Tom.  
**To:** (b)(6)

Hello Lolita (and Ryan),

Tom has asked me to set you up to participate at the Rancho ride for the first 3 days, Friday-Sunday, May 4-6.

I will have the Rancho office include Ryan as a Director's Guest.

I understand there will be 2 security men in accompaniment. Please provide me with their names and we will get them on the list as Guests of Rancho's.

RV is a very special group which I'm sure Ryan will enjoy.

I will also be there, and hope to meet up with Ryan to help him get situated.

Once we provide all the names, the RV Office May send an email with a waiver to be signed.

This is an insurance waiver (formality), everyone is asked to complete to safeguard the organization.

I'll watch for the names and process them when received.

If you have any questions, feel free to email, text or call me at any time.

With regards,

Dave.

David J. Monahan

(b)(6)

--

**Lolita C. Zinke**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (b)(6)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**To:** dmonahan@aloha.net[dmonahan@aloha.net]; Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-03-14T14:06:18-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Ride  
**Received:** 2018-03-14T14:06:50-04:00

Dave, Ryan Zinke here. Thank you for the email and I look forward to the ride. I will have my security team contact you shortly with the details. All the best. Z

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-15T07:31:55-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 15, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-15T07:32:04-04:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 15, 2018 at 6:00:07 AM EDT  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018 6:00 AM EDT**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Washington Post: Trump Cabinet Members Accused Of Living Large At Taxpayer Expense.
- Alaska Journal of Commerce: Interior Leaders Talk Progress On Priorities After Year Under Trump.
- Federal Computer Week: Interior Unprepared For Cyber Threats.
- Politico: Oil Group To Lobby President After Stay At Trump Hotel.
- UPI: Zinke Criticized For Wild-West Mentality Over Oil And Gas.
- Associated Press: Interior Will Send \$18M From Roan Drilling To Colorado.
- Arizona Republic: Big Tax Break For Coal In Arizona Stalls Out At The Legislature.
- NBC News: Advocates Fight To Save Grant That Helps Preserve History Of World War II Internment.
- Missoulian (MT): Poll: Montanans Split On Elected Officials, Dislike Zinke's Recommendations For Monuments.
- Associated Press: Conservationists Launch Anti-Gianforte Campaign.
- Lewiston (ME) Sun Journal: Whistleblower Denounces Trump's Failure To Tackle Climate Change.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- WATCH: Elouise Cobell Fights For Native Americans In '100 Years'.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Alamosa (CO) Valley Courier: BLM Oil/gas Leases Draw Concerns.
- Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus: Keller Receives NMCGA Award.

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Trump's OCS Drilling Plan Draws Cheers, Jeers From Coastal Elected Officials.
- Offshore Drilling Meeting Battles Clock, Weather.
- Could N.J. Offshore Drill Plan Be Dead? Local Congressmen Are Optimistic.
- AG Healey Pledges To Fight Trump Offshore Drilling Plan Along Massachusetts Coast.
- Commissioners Serenaded At Meeting About Offshore Drilling.

#### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- Klamath River Fish-kill Preventive Dam Releases Challenged By Farmers, Water Districts.
- Heller Introduces Bill To Reauthorize Colorado River Program.

#### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Washington Examiner: Ellen DeGeneres Calls On Trump To Reverse Elephant Trophy Decision: 'Don't Make Me Tweet About This'.
- The Hill: Animal Rights Group Sues For Details On Interior's Pro-Hunting Group.
- Miami Herald: Miami Federal Judge Rejects Bid To Stop Walmart In Rare Miami Forest.
- Mitchell (SD) Daily Republic: Environmental Assessment Done For Clark County Wind Proposal.
- KWMU-FM St. Louis: Environmental Regulators Are Trying To Turn A Former Lead Mining Site Back Into A Forest.
- Associated Press: 3rd Lawsuit Filed Over Colorado's Predator Reduction Studies.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Moapa Dace Population Holds Steady In Latest Count Of Endangered Fish.

#### **National Park Service**

- Associated Press: Historic Black Church With W.E.B. Du Bois Ties Gets Grant.
- Associated Press: \$500K Grant Will Restore Historic Building At Fort Huachuca.
- Greene County (VA) Record: 100,000-plus Comments Received On Proposed Fee Hike.
- Associated Press: Fix To Keep Worm Diggers In National Park Gets House OK.
- Associated Press: Comment Wanted For Potential Design For DC War Memorial.
- Charlotte (NC) Observer: Virginia Man Still Claims Ownership Of Vanished NC Island.
- Associated Press: Waterline Breaks Lead To Restrictions At Grand Canyon Park.
- Cody (WY) Enterprise: Reconstruction Of Beartooth Highway Continues With Grant.
- KTNV-TV Las Vegas: Truck Crash Results In Hazmat Spill In Death Valley National Park.

#### **Insular And International Affairs**

- Close Up Program Gets \$900,000.

#### **US Geological Survey**

- Discover Magazine: Scientists Record Volcanic Thunder For The First Time.
- Idyllwild (CA) Town Crier: Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Not Forgotten.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- Parks Should Be Affordable For All.
- Panhandle At Risk For BP-Style Blowout: Guestview.
- BLM Plan Is On The Right Track For Public Lands.
- Additional Reading.

### **Top National News**

- KPLR-TV St. Louis: Trump Touts Tax Reform Law, Says He Is Ready To Launch "Phase Two."
- CNBC: Trump Picks Kudlow As Cohn Replacement.
- CBS: White House: US "Stands In Solidarity" With UK On Russia Accusations.
- NBC: Media Analyses: Lamb's Showing Signals Possible Democratic Wave In November.
- ABC: High School Students Stage Walkout Across Nation In Support Of Gun Control.
- Washington Post: Cabinet Members Make Case For "Transformative" Infrastructure Projects.
- Washington Post: In 61-31 Vote, Senate Passes "Sweeping Rollback" Of Dodd-Frank.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Trump Was Right To Block Merger."
- Washington Post.
  - "Britain Is Punishing Putin. America Should Join In."
  - "What The Pennsylvania Election Should Teach Both Parties."
  - "Students Walking Out Of School Taught The Nation A Lesson."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Kudlow Into The Breach."
  - "Trump's Pennsylvania Downdraft."
  - "A Cancer Scare Defeat In California."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Trump Cabinet Members Accused Of Living Large At Taxpayer Expense.**

The Washington Post (3/14, Eilperin, Dennis) reports that President Trump, who last year "extolled the virtues of the men and women" in his Cabinet, now "finds himself presiding over a Cabinet in which a number of members stand accused of living large at taxpayer expense – often by aggressively embracing the trappings of their high government posts. At least a half-



dozen current or former Trump Cabinet officials have been mired in federal investigations over everything from high-end travel and spending on items such as a soundproof phone booth to the role of family members weighing in on official business." The Post specifically cites controversies surrounding HUD Secretary Carson, EPA Administrator Pruitt, VA Secretary Shulkin, Interior Secretary Zinke, and ex-HHS Secretary Tom Price.

CNN (3/14, Liptak, Marsh) reports that Trump is "openly wondering what happened to the collection of officials he described only five months ago as the 'finest group of people ever assembled' as members of his Cabinet find themselves embroiled in ethics scandals or woefully at odds with the White House." Trump has "complained in recent days that his Cabinet has fallen well short of his expectations and wants to purge all the 'deadweight,' one official said."

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (3/14, Lemire).

***A Watchdog Group Sues 16 Federal Agencies For Records Of Office Upgrade Expenses.*** Pacific Standard (3/14, Wheeling) reports that "American Oversight, a liberal watchdog group, filed a lawsuit Wednesday against 16 federal agencies for failing to respond to Freedom of Information Act requests made in November." The group is "seeking records of "actual or projected expenses" related to office renovations or upgrades for senior officials at the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Interior, Justice, Labor, Transportation, Treasury, Veterans Affairs, and State, as well as the Office of Management and Budget and the General Services Administration."

### **Interior Leaders Talk Progress On Priorities After Year Under Trump.**

The Alaska Journal of Commerce (3/14, Brehmer) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary Dave Bernhardt and Assistant Secretary Joe Balash visited Anchorage on March 8 "to report on the progress of Interior's work during the first year of the Trump administration." Addressing the biweekly breakfast gathering of Alaska Support Industry Alliance members, Bernhardt said, "We had a very, very productive year if you compare our policy development to prior administrations." Balash commented, "Every day I get to work on something related to Alaska." Bernhardt "said Balash's work will likely continue to be Alaska-centric as the Bureau of Land Management should be publishing a Notice of Intent to initiate the environmental impact statement process for ANWR lease sales within several weeks."

***US Plans To Complete ANWR Lease Review In 2019.*** Argus Media (3/14) reports that the Interior Department hopes to complete an environmental review of oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by early 2019 so that it can then begin holding lease sales for Alaska's coastal plain. Potential leasing in that area is likely to spark "years of litigation and protests," which could dampen industry interest in the lease sale. American Petroleum Institute chief economist Dean Foreman said that oil companies

are likely to be interested in exploration in the area "with a view to augment their reserve base." Foreman said, "We can use modern technology to discover where the resource potential is in ways that have not been possible or permitted up to this point."

### **Interior Unprepared For Cyber Threats.**

Federal Computer Week (3/14, Gunter) reports that the Interior Department is "vulnerable to the theft of sensitive data, unprepared to detect and deal with cyber threats and failing to keep users on its computer network from visiting – downloading materials from – illicit websites, according to a new watchdog report." According to the article, "during testing at a U.S. Geological Survey facility as part of a department-wide audit, Interior's inspector general, working with independent accounting firm KPMG, identified a 'workstation attempting to communicate with IP addresses of known malware command and control website in Russia.'" The machine, Interior later found, "had been compromised." Auditors also found that "inappropriate and risky network behavior occurred undetected...due to deficiencies and inconsistencies in Interior's Office of the CIO incident response program."

### **Oil Group To Lobby President After Stay At Trump Hotel.**

Politico (3/14, Lefebvre) reports that the American Petroleum Institute is holding its annual board meeting at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, "before its executive committee goes to the White House to voice concerns about President Donald Trump's proposed steel tariffs, sources familiar with the meetings told POLITICO." API's meeting "could involve up to 200 people representing various oil and gas companies – including the top executives of major oil companies – paying to stay at Trump's hotel." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Energy Secretary Rick Perry "are scheduled to attend the board meeting at the Trump Hotel on Wednesday night, two sources told POLITICO."

### **Zinke Criticized For Wild-West Mentality Over Oil And Gas.**

UPI (3/14, Graeber) reports that critics of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who has defended the strategy of energy dominance, say he is "out of step with the will of the people." Last month, Florida Petroleum Council Executive Director David Mica said that allowing offshore drilling in Florida could bring in new sources of revenue and enrich the state's economic diversity. However, Sen. Bill Nelson said during a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "that was something his constituents didn't want to hear."

Additional coverage of the hearing was provided by Natural Gas Intelligence (3/14, Passut) and Platts (3/14, Saville).

### **Interior Will Send \$18M From Roan Drilling To Colorado.**

The AP (3/14) reports that the Interior Department will "send \$18 million

from oil and gas development from Colorado's Roan Plateau back to the state," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced Tuesday during a Senate committee hearing. According to the article, "the money is leftover from the cleanup of Anvil Points, a naval oil shale research site northwest of Rifle." Pending state legislation "would send it to four northwestern Colorado counties – directly to Rio Blanco and Moffat counties and to federal mineral lease districts in Mesa and Garfield counties."

### **Big Tax Break For Coal In Arizona Stalls Out At The Legislature.**

The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/14, Randazzo) reports Arizona lawmakers on Wednesday "debated but failed to pass a proposal to give about \$12 million in annual tax breaks for coal sales...in an effort to save the Navajo Generating Station power plant, which is closing next year." According to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Mark Finchem "potential buyers are looking at the power plant, but are unlikely to step in and save it without the tax break." Peabody Energy is the owner of the Kayenta Mine on Navajo and Hopi land in northern Arizona, which sells coal to the facility. "If the plant closes, so will the mine." Finchem contends "that taxes on the coal are illegal, but the courts have not recognized that." Finchem's bill passed "the House but was held in the Senate Finance committee Wednesday."

### **Advocates Fight To Save Grant That Helps Preserve History Of World War II Internment.**

[NBC News](#) (3/14, Kandil) reports that "a federal grant program aimed at preserving the history of World War II-era Japanese-American incarceration could be in danger under President Donald Trump's proposed 2019 budget." The budget proposal "declines to request funding for the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program, which has provided more than \$21 million of funding for the research and preservation of World War II-era incarceration camps, collection centers, and Department of Justice prisons over nearly a decade." Heather Swift, Department of the Interior press secretary, said, "The proposed budget makes a historic investment in our National Parks infrastructure backlog. The budget prioritizes funding for core operations in the National Park System and addressing the \$11.6 deferred maintenance backlog in parks across the nation through the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. The budget request identifies savings in other programs, including some competitive grant programs." The nonprofit Japanese American Citizens League is "encouraging people to contact their representatives about the issue before Friday, the deadline for members of Congress to submit their requests for funding."

### **Poll: Montanans Split On Elected Officials, Dislike Zinke's Recommendations For Monuments.**

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/14, Szpaller) reports that "Montanans are divided over the job performance of statewide elected officials but generally

disapprove of U.S. Department of the Interior recommendations to reduce the size of national monuments, according to results of a new poll announced Thursday by the University of Montana." According to UM's inaugural Big Sky Poll, "some 62 percent of Montanans polled disapproved of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations to decrease the size of national monuments," while "29 percent approved of the recommendations, and an estimated 9 percent declined to answer the question." The article says that "according to UM, the poll was conducted via telephone between Feb. 1 and Feb. 19 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level."

### **Conservationists Launch Anti-Gianforte Campaign.**

The [AP](#) (3/14, Volz) reports that "a conservation group is launching an ad campaign that repeatedly accuses U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte of 'assaulting' and 'attacking' public lands since he's been in office, a veiled reference to the Montana Republican's attack of a reporter last year." League of Conservation Voters officials "said they are spending \$244,000 on ads through April, the first significant outside group spending in Gianforte's nascent re-election campaign." The League of Conservation Voters officials insist "the ad campaign is not about Gianforte's re-election, but about bills pending in Congress."

### **Whistleblower Denounces Trump's Failure To Tackle Climate Change.**

The [Lewiston \(ME\) Sun Journal](#) (3/14, Collins) reports that Joel Clement, "former director of the U.S. Office of Policy Analysis and the top climate-change policy official at the Department of Interior," spoke at Bates College on Wednesday evening. Clement claimed that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "could not just clean house of career bureaucrats whose jobs are protected by law," so "he wound up transferring executives in the hope of driving them to quit." But "rather than go quietly off to a new home in Tulsa, Clement got a lawyer, filed a whistleblower complaint and took to the pages of The Washington Post to denounce what he saw going on within the department." He resigned in October.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **WATCH: Elouise Cobell Fights For Native Americans In '100 Years'.**

The [ColorLines](#) (3/14, Rao) reports that PBS/World Channel on Tuesday night aired a documentary on "how banker Elouise Cobell fought the United States government for the billions of dollars it owed Indigenous landowners." The film "explores how Cobell, a member of the Blackfeet Nation and founder of the tribe-operated Blackfeet National Bank, discovered several financial abuses at the Bureau of Indian Affairs throughout the 1980s and '90s."

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

**BLM Oil/gas Leases Draw Concerns.**

The [Alamosa \(CO\) Valley Courier](#) (3/14, Heide) reports that local residents are concerned about the impact of oil and gas leases near the Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve. The Bureau of Land Management “plans to offer about a dozen parcels for potential oil and gas sale leases in September and will be releasing an environmental assessment regarding the parcels next week, with the public allowed 15 days afterwards (until April 6) to comment on the environmental assessment.” Anna Lee Vargas, director, Project Management and Community Outreach for Conejos Clean Water, said, “We are so conscious as community members of our land and our water, air quality, water quality. We just don’t want anything to impact that.”

**Keller Receives NMCGA Award.**

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (3/14) reports that “Ray Keller received the 2017 Ayudando Siempre Alli Award from the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association (NMCGA) at the Joint Stockmen’s Convention recently held in Albuquerque.” At the Bureau of Land Management’s Carlsbad Field Office, Keller “spearheaded the Restore New Mexico program that put funds from the National Resource Conservation Service EQIP program together with private dollars to change the face of the landscape of southeastern New Mexico.” According to the article, “through his efforts, over 3 million acres have been treated with programs ranging from invasive species control and noxious weed treatment.” NMCGA President Tom Sidwell said, “We truly appreciate the work that Ray has put into improving landscapes in southeastern New Mexico.”

**Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

**Trump’s OCS Drilling Plan Draws Cheers, Jeers From Coastal Elected Officials.**

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/13, Passut) reports elected officials from coastal states “took disparate views over the Trump administration’s proposal to open more than 90% of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to oil and natural gas exploration, which garnered more than 630,000 public comments.” Most of the comments “appeared to be in opposition to the draft proposed program (DPP) for the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024, which the Department of Interior’s (DOI) Bureau of Ocean Energy Management unveiled earlier this year.”

**Offshore Drilling Meeting Battles Clock, Weather.**

The [Ellsworth \(ME\) American](#) (3/13, Rappaport) reports that a recent Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) recently held a meeting in Maine to discuss the Trump Administration’s offshore drilling plan, but the meeting was held only one day before the close of the public comments period and took place hours before a winter storm. The article highlights

opposition to the plan from Maine congressmen and local residents.

### **Could N.J. Offshore Drill Plan Be Dead? Local Congressmen Are Optimistic.**

Philly (PA) (2/28, Kummer) reports that several New Jersey members of Congress "say they met Tuesday with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and they came away from the conversation believing drilling off the state's coast is unlikely." However, Zinke "has not officially removed New Jersey from the list of areas under consideration for offshore exploration and drilling for natural gas and oil. Florida has already been removed."

### **AG Healey Pledges To Fight Trump Offshore Drilling Plan Along Massachusetts Coast.**

The Springfield (MA) Republican (3/13, Serreze) reports Attorney General Maura Healey on Monday "vowed to fight federal plans to open the Massachusetts coastline to offshore oil and gas drilling." Healey said, "Massachusetts does not want drilling off our coast and I will fight this proposal to defend our state and our residents. ... Of all the bad environmental ideas the Trump administration has proposed, this one may take the cake."

### **Commissioners Serenaded At Meeting About Offshore Drilling.**

KXRO-AM Aberdeen, WA (3/13) reports that a group of people in Washington state "serenaded the Grays Harbor County Commissioners showing their opposition to offshore oil drilling but a resolution was still not brought to the floor." The group's effort was part of a bid to get the commissioners to pass a resolution against offshore drilling.

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Klamath River Fish-kill Preventive Dam Releases Challenged By Farmers, Water Districts.**

The Eureka (CA) Times Standard (3/14, Houston) reports that "local tribes' say critically important dam water releases meant to protect threatened salmon on the Klamath River from deadly parasitic disease outbreaks are being contested by irrigators and water districts in the Klamath Basin as they face drought conditions." According to the article, "basin ranchers, farmers and water districts argue in a federal court filing this month that the potential for fish disease outbreaks this year is low, but that the drought conditions the basin faces could cause significant economic impacts to their region." Bureau of Reclamation public affairs officer Erin Curtis "said the basin does not have enough water to provide for both irrigators and the dam releases without lowering water levels at Upper Klamath Lake."

### **Heller Introduces Bill To Reauthorize Colorado River Program.**

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/14, Martin) reports that "legislation has been introduced in the Senate to reauthorize the Colorado River System Conservation Program critical to water supplies for Southern Nevada." Sen. Dean Heller "filed the bill to reauthorize for four years the conservation program, first passed by Congress in 2015 to conserve water and mitigate impacts of drought in the Colorado River Basin."

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

#### **Ellen DeGeneres Calls On Trump To Reverse Elephant Trophy Decision: 'Don't Make Me Tweet About This'.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/14, Mayfield) reports that "talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is again calling on President Trump to reverse his administration's decision to allow elephant body parts into the U.S. as trophies." In a clip of her show shared on social media Wednesday, DeGeneres said, "Mr. President, I am begging you to change your mind and protect these majestic animals. Don't make me tweet about this." She added, "I don't wanna get into a battle of words or anything ... but I have a Twitter account, too, and mine is much bigger than yours."

#### **Animal Rights Group Sues For Details On Interior's Pro-Hunting Group.**

[The Hill](#) (3/14, Green) reports that "an animals rights group is suing the Interior Department after the agency failed to provide details on a new advisory group created to advocate for international hunting." The group Born Free USA "filed a suit against Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service on Wednesday, arguing that the agency failed to provide details they requested in a November Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request about the agency's International Wildlife Conservation Council (IWCC)." The group's "initial November FOIA request asked for documents related to the duties of the IWCC, the circumstance for its creation and the criteria in which its members were selected." The organization "additionally requested in their FOIA that FWS provide them with 'the authority' that was used to create the group." The suit claim "that FWS failed to meet its deadline to provide the requested details."

#### **Miami Federal Judge Rejects Bid To Stop Walmart In Rare Miami Forest.**

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/14, Staletovich) reports that "a Miami federal judge has lifted a temporary stop to construction on a Walmart-anchored shopping center on rare pine rockland and hinted that environmentalists are unlikely to win their battle in court." It's unclear "when Palm Beach County developer Peter Cummings will resume work on the planned shopping center and apartments spread across nearly 140 acres near Zoo Miami." However, "environmentalists, armed with additional information released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since the case was argued, said they plan to keep fighting a project that could pave over one of the

largest remaining tracts of pineland outside Everglades National Park.”

Additional coverage was provided by the Miami New Times (3/14, Iannelli) and Law360 (3/14, Bolado).

### **Environmental Assessment Done For Clark County Wind Proposal.**

The Mitchell (SD) Daily Republic (3/14, Mercer) reports that “the Crocker wind farm proposed in Clark County has 14 turbine sites that would be swapped for other ground because they are on federal grassland easements, according an environmental assessment from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The FWS “released a report Wednesday on the project. Geronimo Energy, the project developer, wants to build 120 wind towers on a variety of privately held properties, including the 14 federal easements.” According to the report, “Geronimo Energy would voluntarily swap land with the federal government on a two-to-one basis after construction has finished.”

### **Environmental Regulators Are Trying To Turn A Former Lead Mining Site Back Into A Forest.**

KWMU-FM St. Louis (3/14, Chen) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources are “restoring a portion of Missouri’s Old Lead Belt back into a forest.” According to John Weber, an environmental contaminants specialist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, “the reforestation could improve local water quality, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitats.” He said, “It’s important for people who are recreating in the river, whether they are fishing or floating. It’s important for downstream species of mussels. There’s some species listed on the endangered species list that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned about.”

### **3rd Lawsuit Filed Over Colorado’s Predator Reduction Studies.**

The AP (3/14) reports that “activist groups have filed a third lawsuit in connection to Colorado Parks and Wildlife research projects that aim to determine whether reducing predators could help mule deer numbers.” The lawsuit “filed last week targets the research’s primary funding source – the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – which authorized more than \$3.4 million in funding.”

### **Moapa Dace Population Holds Steady In Latest Count Of Endangered Fish.**

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/14, Brean) reports that results for the latest count for Clark County’s most endangered fish is “mixed.” According to the article, “while researchers were relieved to see the Moapa dace population holding steady at 1,138 adult fish, they would prefer some real improvement for a species that’s been under federal protection for just over 50 years.” Michael Schwemm, senior fish biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Southern Nevada, said, “We’re not in a crisis mode



where the species is declining. But we're not happy with the status quo. We want to see things improve."

### **National Park Service**

---

#### **Historic Black Church With W.E.B. Du Bois Ties Gets Grant.**

The [AP](#) (3/14) reports that "preservationists for a 130-year-old black church with ties to civil rights pioneer W.E.B. Du Bois have received federal grant money to turn it into a community center." The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area was awarded \$389,000 from the National Park Service African American Civil Rights Grants Program "Tuesday to restore the Clinton AME Zion Church in Great Barrington, near the New York and Connecticut borders."

#### **\$500K Grand Will Restore Historic Building At Fort Huachuca.**

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that "Arizona State Parks and Trails has received \$500,000 in grant funding from the National Park Service to restore the Mountain View Officers' Club at Fort Huachuca." The State Historic Preservation Office, a division of Arizona State Parks and Trails, has "been involved in a long-standing effort to preserve and protect the World War II-era black officers' club, which is one of two such documented buildings in the U.S. Army."

#### **100,000-plus Comments Received On Proposed Fee Hike.**

The [Greene County \(VA\) Record](#) (3/14, Brooks) reports that the National Park Service is "poring over comments received on proposed peak-season fee increases." According to the article, "109,111 comments were received, with 1,004 specifically mentioning Shenandoah National Park." The article says that "a glance at the first 100 shows a close split of 59 against the proposal, 37 for it and four offering other suggestions such as charging non-U.S. residents a higher fee."

**Advisory Panel Slams Fee Hikes.** The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (3/14, Broom) reports that "members of the Acadia Advisory Commission voted unanimously on Monday to formally oppose the higher park entrance fees that have been proposed for Acadia during its peak visitation season, June through October." Acadia Advisory Commission member Matt Horton "said at Monday's meeting that he has heard from many people who feel the proposed increases are excessive." The NPS said the fee increases were necessary to generate "badly needed revenue for improvements to the aging infrastructure of the national parks."

#### **Fix To Keep Worm Diggers In National Park Gets House OK.**

The [AP](#) (3/14, Whittle) reports that the U.S. House of Representatives "unanimously signed off on a bill late Tuesday designed to allow" commercial harvesters of "marketable species to continuing plying their trade" near Acadia National Park. In recent years, the harvesters have

claimed "they've faced enforcement from National Park Service personnel who have told them it's prohibited." A similar bill has been proposed in the Senate by Sen. Angus King, "but has yet to make it to a committee vote."

Additional coverage was provided by the Mount Desert (ME) Islander (3/15).

### **Comment Wanted For Potential Design For DC War Memorial.**

The AP (3/15) reports that the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, "in cooperation with the National Park Service, is looking for public comments on the potential design of a memorial that the US Congress authorized the establishment of on federal land in Washington, D.C." The National Park Service "said in a statement that the purpose of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial is to commemorate and honor members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield." The comment period closes on April 13.

### **Virginia Man Still Claims Ownership Of Vanished NC Island.**

The Charlotte (NC) Observer (3/14, Price) reports that "North Carolina's Shelly Island may have vanished below ocean waters – possibly forever – but that's not discouraging the Virginia man who filed a deed for ownership of the mysterious landmass." Ken Barlow "says his mile-long island is still there...but its no longer a separate island. It has merged – at least in part – with nearby Cape Point, he says." The National Park Service has "never conceded Barlow owned the 27-acre island." Although "the island vanished before the dispute reached the courts," Barlow is "undeterred." He said, "I will NEVER relinquish what I own to the National Park Service. I will defend that property with the necessary force to repel invaders, such as the NPS.... Dare County Records of Deeds says I own this property. End of story."

### **Waterline Breaks Lead To Restrictions At Grand Canyon Park.**

The AP (3/14) reports that "due to a series of breaks in the Transcanyon Waterline, Grand Canyon National Park has implemented water conservation measures." According to officials, "the park will remain in conservation mode until staff repairs the break and water in storage tanks reaches sustainable levels."

### **Reconstruction Of Beartooth Highway Continues With Grant.**

The Cody (WY) Enterprise (3/14) reports the Department of Transportation recently awarded the Wyoming Department of Transportation a \$16.6 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant to reconstruct the final 1.6-mile segment of Beartooth Highway. The Beartooth Steering Committee includes the WDOT, Montana Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Yellowstone National Park, US Forest Service, Wyoming and Montana congressional staff, and other

organizations.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/14).

### **Truck Crash Results In Hazmat Spill In Death Valley National Park.**

[KTNV-TV Las Vegas](#) (3/14) reports that "a crash resulted in a hazardous materials situation at Death Valley National Park earlier this week." According to the article, "around 2:15 p.m. on Monday, March 12, a truck driver heading eastbound on California Highway 190 lost control of his vehicle near Emigrant Campground." The vehicle "careened into the desert, landed on its side, and caught on fire."

### **Insular And International Affairs**

---

#### **Close Up Program Gets \$900,000.**

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (3/15) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech has "authorized a payment of \$900,000 for fiscal year 2018 funding of the Close Up Insular Area Program." According to the article, "this year's program will bring approximately 190 high school-aged students from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the freely associated states of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau, to Washington, D.C. for civic education programs alongside their peers from the 50 states." Domenech said, "The goal of this program is to highlight models of American democratic institutions and to foster in youth the interest, knowledge, and skills needed to effectively participate in a democracy. Bringing the students from the islands allows them to have critical exchange and sharing experiences with students from the States."

### **US Geological Survey**

---

#### **Scientists Record Volcanic Thunder For The First Time.**

[Discover Magazine](#) (3/14, Scharping) reports that researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey "say they have finally captured a recording" of volcanic thunder, "during the 2017 eruption of Bogoslof in Alaska." The findings were published Tuesday in *Geophysical Research Letters*.

Additional coverage was provided by [Newsweek](#) (3/14, Bartels).

#### **Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Not Forgotten.**

The [Idyllwild \(CA\) Town Crier](#) (3/14, Crumrine) reports that "efforts to save the endangered Mountain yellow-legged frog in the San Jacinto Mountains have been limited in the five years since the 2013 Mountain Fire." The article notes that "most of the efforts on the frogs' behalf have focused on the San Gabriel Mountains." However, Adam Backlin, a U.S. Geological Survey biologist, "said that will be changing with the help of the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska." Backlin said, "The herpetologist there has been working with similar frogs in the desert southwest for 20 years. He has been very successful with captive husbandry."

## Opinion Pieces

---

### **Parks Should Be Affordable For All.**

In an editorial, the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (3/14) argues that national parks were “never intended to be a money-making proposition, and should not be converted into one.” The paper acknowledges that “fees are a good idea to help maintain parks” but opposes a proposal to increase fees at national parks to the extent that they become unaffordable for some.

### **Panhandle At Risk For BP-Style Blowout: Guestview.**

In a piece for the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (3/11, Graham, Beinecke), Bob Graham and Frances Beinecke argue that the Trump Administration is ushering in a “dangerous and foolhardy combination” of “expanding the reach of oil and gas drilling while rolling back common-sense safeguards drawn from the lessons of the Deepwater Horizon disaster.” The authors claim “Congress continues to operate in a state of denial” as this “is putting Florida’s Panhandle at increased risk for the next BP-style blowout.”

### **BLM Plan Is On The Right Track For Public Lands.**

In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/14, Herzer), John Herzer, owner of Blackfoot River Outfitters in Missoula and Flint Creek Outdoors in Philipsburg, writes that he gave the Bureau of Land Management “low marks” 25 years ago, but “over the years that agency has taken on a more active role in managing those parcels with an eye to the future and conservation.” Although he doesn’t “agree with all their decisions,” Herzer believes “they are on a much better path.” Herzer lauds the BLM office “for trying new ways to involve the public in resource management planning, as well as new tools for managing public lands.”

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Here’s The Case: Trump Has The Worst Cabinet Ever.* [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Rubin).
- *Republican Politicians Should Support The Outdoor Industry.* [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/15, Grijalva).
- *Coal Mine Reclaim Act Sidetracked By Companies And Miners Pay Price.* [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/14, Hescoc).
- *Guest Opinion: Gianforte Doesn’t Get Montana’s Public Lands.* [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/14, Burglund, Miller).
- *Governor’s Repeated Extensions Of State Of Emergency Further Tramples On VI Laws Requiring Financial Accountability And Transparency.* [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (3/14, Diase-Coffelt).

## Top National News

---

**Trump Touts Tax Reform Law, Says He Is Ready To Launch “Phase**

**Two.”**

The President’s visit to St. Louis yesterday generated largely favorable local coverage, which focused on his defense of his tax reform law and his apparent preview of an additional push for more tax cuts. National media, on the other hand, covered the story sparingly, with the major network newscasts skipping it altogether.

☒ [KPLR-TV](#) St. Louis (3/14, 7:02 p.m. CDT) reported that the President “called St. Louis, quote, ‘a great place, a place that was really good to me,’ unquote.” Trump “visited the Boeing plant in North St. Louis County,” and “held a roundtable meeting” with “representatives from ten companies across the state, all of which have said that the Trump tax plan has had a positive impact on their businesses.” KPLR added that Trump “told the Missouri business leaders he is ready to being ‘phase two’ of his tax reform plan, a plan he says that will provide tremendous incentives for workers.”

☒ [KMOV-TV](#) St. Louis (3/14, 5:02 p.m. CDT) also reported “eighteen people, including the President, sat around the horseshoe table sharing how tax cuts impacted their own lives.” ☒ [KOMU-TV](#) Columbia, MO (3/14, 6:04 p.m. CDT) reported that the businesses “say...Trump’s tax reform allowed them to increase wages and announce bonuses,” and ☒ [KTVI-TV](#) St. Louis (3/14, 6:32 p.m. CDT) that “many of the companies represented...gave their employees bonuses ranging from \$200 to \$1,000 each.” Trump was shown saying, “We are now going for a phase two. We are actually going for a phase two, which...in addition to the middle class, will help companies, and it’s going to be something, I think, very special.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/14, Boyer, Miller) reports Trump “said House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, Texas Republican, and members of the Senate are involved in the effort.” Trump “hasn’t specified what a second round of tax cuts would entail, and it’s not clear whether congressional Republican leaders are ready for another such battle.” However, “Rep. Roger Williams, Texas Republican and a member of the House Financial Services Committee, said Wednesday that he’d like to cut capital gains taxes, and to make permanent the individual tax cuts approved last December.”

Typical of the tenor of national reporting was the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/14, Bierman), which headlined its story “Trump Returns From A Brief Trip To Greater Tumult Of His Own Making In Washington” and devotes most of the piece to casting a decidedly unfavorable light on the “chaos” surrounding the Administration. The Times reports in its final paragraphs that “as Trump bragged about a humming economy during the event at Boeing in Missouri, Democrats nationwide were seeing signs of the potential to capitalize on the new energy of young people and suburban women.” Yet “in St. Louis,” the President “met an enthusiastic crowd of supporters at the airport and shouts of ‘Keep it up!’”

The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Baker, Tankersley) similarly reports that “amid all the turmoil and uncertainty, with his White House seemingly

fraying, his legislative agenda stalled and his electoral base in danger," Trump "these days finds one area of comfort: talking about his tax cuts. He finds it so reassuring, in fact, that he is increasingly talking about doing it all over again."

The [AP](#) (3/14) also describes Trump as "trying to turn attention back to tax cuts and away from the staffing turmoil in his administration," and notes he "promised Wednesday that more relief was on the way." The AP adds, "It's unclear what Trump was talking about," and "the White House did not immediately respond to a request for more details," but "Brady...told Fox Business Network he was indeed working on something with the president and 'we think even more can be done.'" [Politico](#) (3/14, Faler) runs a similar story under the headline "Trump And Brady Say More Tax Cuts Coming."

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Business Journal](#) (3/14, Kirn) reports that "Trump, seated in front of an F-15 fighter jet, heard from an array of Missouri business leaders, who praised the tax cuts, passed in December, often with personal stories." The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (3/14) notes "College of the Ozarks President Jerry C. Davis attended" the roundtable, invited by the White House "after C of O gave a \$204 bonus to employees in January as a result of savings from the recent US tax code revision." The News-Leader adds that "a new poll says that President Trump's approval rating is on the rise after a surge in the US economy and shifting tax reform numbers." The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/14) editorializes that the tax law is "is contributing to a wave of good economic news for the nation," but "doesn't seem to be doing much for workers' wages" despite "full employment."

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/14, Bott) reports that "before the roundtable meeting, Trump was given a tour of Boeing's facility with company officials, former Republican Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder and Mehan." The Post-Dispatch adds that "as he toured part of the Boeing facility and examined an F/A-18 Super Hornet," Trump said, "Great planes, incredible." The "production line," in fact, "has gotten a boost from the administration's request for more Super Hornets in fiscal 2019 on top of the 24 Congress has written into this year's budget." [Bloomberg News](#) (3/14, Johnsson, Capaccio, Epstein) reports also the President also urged Boeing "give the government a 'good price' for its fighter jets, lest he take his business elsewhere." Said Trump, "Otherwise, we're going to buy them from somebody else" in the US.

On its website, [ABC News](#) (3/14, Mallin) reports "some economists have pointed out that Boeing could be one of many US companies particularly vulnerable in the event of a trade war, because it top exporter sells 80 percent of its commercial planes abroad." However, "the company is also one of many that announced hundreds of millions in bonuses for workers following passage of the GOP tax plan."

***Kudlow Also Discusses "Phase Two."*** [Bloomberg News](#) (3/14, Olorunnipa) reports that in an interview with  [CNBC](#), Larry Kudlow said

that "tax cuts for individuals should be made permanent under 'phase two' of an overhaul." Said Kudlow, "Individuals deserve a permanent break." Kudlow, however, "said he didn't expect a phase two to cut the corporate rate further." Bloomberg adds Trump "has previously referenced a so-called phase two of tax cuts – sometimes in a joking manner," but "earlier this week, he said he was 'serious' about asking House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady to get it done."

Kudlow also said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (3/14), "Many of the people who are critical of me or the President's tax cuts are the very people who are being helped the most. For example, my friends in the union movement – teachers union, government workers – they hate this stuff. You know what? Lower tax rates and faster economic growth and the better profits is the only hope they have of ever seeing their pension. So, don't tell me it doesn't help everybody, because it does."

***Trump Raises Funds For McCaskill Opponent As McConnell Criticizes Her Vote Against Tax Reform.*** The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (3/14, Lowry) notes that when Trump "landed...in St. Louis for his third visit to Missouri in less than a year, the man who welcomed the president to the state twice before was noticeably absent." Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, "who faces a criminal trial in May, did not greet Trump at the airport as he did for Trump's previous visits to Springfield and St. Charles." Trump "instead was welcomed by Attorney General Josh Hawley, the state's top law enforcement official and the Republican front-runner to challenge US Sen. Claire McCaskill in the fall." [KOMU-TV](#) Columbia, MO (3/14, 6:04 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump "went to a private fundraising campaign...Hawley" yesterday.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/14, Raasch) reports that "hours before" Trump's arrival in Missouri, "Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell took to the Senate floor to criticize...McCaskill for voting against tax cuts that Trump signed into law late last year." McCaskill "pushed back, saying she was for tax cuts but not for the GOP plan that passed that she said was skewed toward wealthier Americans."

***Koch Brothers-Backed Group Launches New Ads Which Hit Donnelly, McCaskill On Tax Vote.*** Meanwhile, [Roll Call](#) (3/14, Pathé) reported that Americans for Prosperity, a Koch brothers-backed group, "is rolling out another \$4 million ad campaign targeting" McCaskill and Sen. Joe Donnelly for opposing the tax-reform bill. The spots mark "the second phase of a \$20 million digital and TV campaign and comes a month after AFP launched the first \$4 million initiative, also against Donnelly and McCaskill. Each ad features a woman explaining how the GOP tax plan benefits them." The [AP](#) (3/14) reports the spots airing in Missouri "criticize McCaskill over her comment that the tax overhaul will only mean 'scraps' for" her state's residents.

### **Trump Picks Kudlow As Cohn Replacement.**

Eamon Javers reported yesterday on [CNBC's Halftime Report](#) (3/14),

"According to a source familiar with the deliberations, the President has asked Larry Kudlow to serve as the next National Economic Council director succeeding Gary Cohn." Added Javers, "The President, I am told, offered Larry Kudlow the job" Tuesday and Kudlow "accepted" it. Javers later said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (3/14), "Kudlow says he will disagree with the President when he feels that it is important to do so, but ultimately, the President makes the decisions here. This is the White House after all, and Kudlow says he will execute on decisions even if he does not agree with them as National Economic Counsel Director." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/14, story 4, 0:20, Muir) briefly noted the story last night, indicating Kudlow "served as an informal adviser during the...campaign."

[USA Today](#) (3/14, Jackson, Korte, King) reports White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders "confirmed the move after it was first reported by Kudlow's network." [The Hill](#) (3/14, Easley) quotes Sanders as saying, "Larry Kudlow was offered, and accepted, the position of assistant to the president for economic policy and director of the National Economic Council. ... We will work to have an orderly transition and will keep everyone posted on the timing of him officially assuming the role."

Kudlow spoke to several news outlets later Wednesday. Kudlow told [Reuters](#) (3/14, Mason, Brice), "The president offered me the position last evening and I accepted." Kudlow made similar comments to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14, Timiraos) and [New York Times](#) (3/14, Haberman, Kelly, Tankersley). Kudlow said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (3/14) that he was going to Washington Wednesday night, adding, "We've, got all kinds of things to do. [Trump] sounded great. Look, the economy is starting to boom, the tax cuts are working, the deregulation is working. We're going to get on the infrastructure. Yeah, we're getting on to trade also."

To the [New York Times](#) (3/14, Haberman, Kelly, Tankersley), "the decision to pick Mr. Kudlow, a longtime cheerleader of the president, is the latest move by Mr. Trump to surround himself with loyalists in high administrative posts." The [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Costa, Dawsey) similarly casts Trump as "looking to longtime loyalists who encourage his extemporaneous and combative style, following months of frustration with aides and Cabinet officials who often sought to temper him." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/14, Finnegan) describes Kudlow as "someone who connects with the president personally and politically." Kudlow "shares with Trump a hard-charging personality and a fondness for being a media figure, and both have hosted television programs." Kudlow "has also been an informal Trump advisor over the past year."

Steve Forbes endorses Kudlow's selection in a [USA Today](#) (3/14) op-ed, in which he writes, "When we see the initials GOP, we think of the Republican nickname – Grand Old Party. With Larry Kudlow's appointment as the new director of the National Economic Council, those initials might soon become an acronym for Growth, Opportunity, and Prosperity. ... The president chose wisely here." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/14) also hails Trump's selection of Kudlow, and urges him to focus on spurring



economic growth and to oppose protectionist policies. To that end, the Journal tells him to rely on Gary Cohn's staff, as well as on Kevin Hassett and Mick Mulvaney.

***Kudlow Defends Trump On Trade.*** The New York Times (3/14, Haberman, Kelly, Tankersley) reports that "in an interview on Wednesday afternoon," Kudlow, "who has publicly criticized the president's recently announced tariff plans, said Mr. Trump had a more nuanced view on trade than many people thought." Said Kudlow, "He regards himself as a free trader. ... He does not like to create obstacles, like tariffs. But he also has to protect the US."

The Washington Examiner (3/14, Morrongiello) reports that "a fierce defender of free trade, Kudlow came out against the steel and aluminum tariffs Trump unveiled last week and will likely defend multilateral trade agreements against the president's protectionist instincts."

***Kudlow: China Needs A Comeuppance On Trade.*** Kudlow was asked on  CNBC's Closing Bell (3/14) about reports that President Trump's tariffs on China could reach \$60 billion. Kudlow said, "I'm a little unsure about these numbers. I'm not privy to the numbers .I did talk to Bob Lighthizer at some length today. ... I can't comment on that. I will say this, China is not played by the rules for a long time. I've talked about that, intellectual property rights, corporate technologies, other barriers, trans-shipments to get around things, so China needs a comeuppance on trade."

***Kudlow In Recent Podcast: Leaving NAFTA Would Be A "Calamitously Bad Decision."*** Politico (3/14, White) says that at the White House, Kudlow will "likely have to push to protect the North American Free Trade Agreement in the White House." In "a recent podcast interview," Kudlow said "withdrawing from the agreement would be a 'calamitously bad decision.'"

### **White House: US "Stands In Solidarity" With UK On Russia Accusations.**

All three networks reported that the White House and Ambassador Haley, in separate statements Wednesday, said the US stands with the UK as British Prime Minister Theresa May announced retaliatory measures against Russia for poisoning a former Russian spy.

The CBS Evening News  (3/14, story 8, 0:40, Glor) reported, "Britain expelled 23 Russian diplomats today after the poisoning of" former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter, who remain in critical condition after exposure to a nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union. The White House "expressed solidarity with Britain." At an emergency UN Security Council meeting, Ambassador Haley "pointed the finger at Russia."

NBC Nightly News  (3/14, story 6, 1:55, Holt) reported that the White House "said it agrees with the UK assessment that Russia is to blame," while Haley "condemned the actions" and "issu[ed] a stern warning." Haley said at the emergency Council meeting: "The United States stands in absolute solidarity with Great Britain." She added, "If we

don't take immediate concrete measures to address this now, Salisbury will not be the last place we see chemical weapons used. They could be used here in New York."

USA Today (3/14, Hjelmgaard, Stanglin) says Haley "sharply blamed" Moscow for the attack and warned "we will act" if chemical weapon use continues, calling the crisis a "defining moment." The Washington Examiner (3/14, Gehrke) says she also "compared the Skripal attack to North Korea's use of a nerve agent to assassinate the half-brother of dictator Kim Jong-un."

ABC World News Tonight (3/14, story 5, 2:30, Muir) reported that senior US intelligence officials say "there is no daylight between US and British assessments" on the fact Russia is responsible, and on Wednesday night, "a strong statement from the White House, saying the United States stands in solidarity with its closest ally, the United Kingdom, and is working together with our allies and partners to ensure that this kind of abhorrent attack does not happen again."

Fox News' Special Report (3/14) quoted White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders as adding: "This latest action by Russia fits into a pattern of behavior in which Russia disregards the international rules-based order, undermines the sovereignty of countries worldwide, and attempts to subvert democratic institutions and processes." CNN's Situation Room (3/14) also reported on the "very strong" statement from Sanders.

The New York Times (3/14, Baker) says Britain's "tough response in holding Russia responsible" has "increased the pressure on President Trump" to join its ally in taking action, "even as he has been reluctant to retaliate for Moscow's intervention in the 2016 election in the United States." While Trump expressed solidarity with May during a phone call, he has "avoided saying so personally in public, much as he has generally avoided condemning Russia for its election meddling."

A second New York Times (3/14, Schwirtz) story says Wednesday's emergency session, called by Britain "to formally accuse Russia of trying to murder a former Russian spy and his daughter," was "unusual. Permanent members of the council do not normally accuse one another of what under certain circumstances could be construed as acts of war."

The Washington Post (3/14, Booth, Bodner) reports May ordered "the immediate expulsion of 23 Russian diplomats believed to be involved in espionage, in the first reprisals against Moscow for a chemical attack on a former double agent." ABC World News Tonight (3/14, story 5, 2:30, Muir) said the move "echo[es] President Obama's kicking out 35 Russian diplomats from the US in retaliation for Russian meddling in the 2016 election." May also announced Britain will "take unspecified clandestine measures," and she added that the royal family will boycott the World Cup soccer tournament in Russia this summer.

May made the announcement in what the New York Times (3/14, Pérez-Peña, Castle) calls "language reminiscent of the Cold War," and

"suddenly" became "the most forceful Western leader in denouncing the government of President Vladimir V. Putin, which she portrayed this week as a malevolent and lawless force."

The AP (3/14, Lawless, Kirka) reports the Russian Embassy in London said the expulsion of diplomats was "totally unacceptable, unjustified and shortsighted," but Amy Kellogg reported on Fox News' Special Report (3/14) that the Kremlin hasn't taken any action in response. Kellogg added that "we expect to hear more...from the Kremlin in the coming days." The New York Times (3/14, Higgins) writes, "Do not expect any apologies or even a serious discussion from Moscow."

A Washington Post (3/14) editorial says "an adequate international response to Mr. Putin would push back against his ventures on all fronts: Syria, where the United Nations has found Russia complicit in war crimes; Ukraine, where Russian-backed forces continue to seek military advantage; cyberspace, where Russian hackers and bots remain ubiquitous. In the absence of such action, Mr. Putin's ambitions, and his audacity, will only escalate further."

Mo Elleithee, executive director of Georgetown University's Institute of Politics and Public Service, said on Fox News' Special Report (3/14), "I thought it was a strong speech by Ambassador Haley. I thought her trying to hold the Security Council accountable in its efforts to hold Russia accountable was a smart move. Apply her words to her boss, to President Trump, who does not have very much credibility right now in holding Russia accountable. Yes, we need a diplomatic effort. We need to engage the United Nations and the Security Council. But it all rings hollow is the President of the United States continues his flirtation with Vladimir Putin and continues to let him off the hook."

***New Zealand To Investigate Decade-Old Poisoning Claim By Former Russian Spy.*** The New York Times (3/14, Graham-Mclay) reports that police in New Zealand said Thursday that they were investigating "a claim that a man who said he once worked for Russian intelligence was poisoned in Auckland more than a decade ago." Boris Karpichkov, who said he worked for the K.G.B. "before becoming a double agent and later claiming asylum in Britain, spent 15 months in New Zealand in 2006 and 2007." Karpichkov told "Good Morning Britain" this week that he "had powder thrown in his face by someone 'dressed as a common beggar' on a busy street in Auckland." He then "became ill, losing his hair and more than 65 pounds."

***Putin Campaigns In Crimea Ahead Of Sunday's Presidential Election.*** The CBS Evening News (3/14, story 9, 2:00, Glor) reported that President Vladimir Putin "made no mention of the growing rift with Britain" as campaigned "in Crimea, the province he took illegally from Ukraine," ahead of Russia's presidential election Sunday. His "message today was proudly nationalistic. Crimea, he said, has returned home to Russia." While the US and "most countries called the seizure illegal and slapped on sanctions," Putin on Wednesday "visited the bridge Russia is building to physically link its mainland to Crimea, a mega-project that's wildly popular with Russians

who support the land grab. But it's also a message to the West: Putin never backs down."

The Washington Post (3/14, Troianovski) similarly reports that on "the same day that the Russian president was the focus of international outrage over the chemical attack on a spy in Britain, Putin came to the site of another event that drew Western furor: Crimea."

### **Media Analyses: Lamb's Showing Signals Possible Democratic Wave In November.**

Ex-federal prosecutor Conor Lamb, a Democrat, appears to have defeated GOP state Rep. Rick Saccone in the PA18 special election. With most ballots counted, Lamb leads by 627 votes – though Saccone may seek a recount. Regardless, media outlets frame Lamb's showing in a district President Trump carried by 20 points in 2016 as further evidence that the GOP faces strong headwinds in its efforts to retain the party's House majority in the 2018 midterm elections.

On NBC Nightly News (3/14, story 4, 2:10), Lester Holt referred "to an election upset that could portend a Democratic wave coming this November. NBC News has declared Conor Lamb the apparent winner in a special congressional election in Pennsylvania in a district that President Trump won big in 2016." NBC's Kasie Hunt added that Lamb scored "a stunning upset" in a contest that dealt Trump "an embarrassing loss." Hunt said, "There are more than 100 Republicans in Congress whose districts are more competitive than Pennsylvania's 18th. A huge warning sign."

The New York Times (3/14, Burns, Martin) asserts that Lamb "scored a razor-thin but extraordinary upset" win "after a few thousand absentee ballots cemented a Democratic victory in the heart of...Trump's Rust Belt base." The Times adds that "Lamb's 627-vote lead Wednesday afternoon appeared insurmountable, given that the four counties in" the PA18 "have about 500 provisional, military and other absentee ballots left to count, election officials said."

While the NBC News and the New York Times declared Lamb as the winner, the AP (3/15, Barrow, Levy, Peoples) reports that the Democrat leads by "627 votes out of more than 224,000 cast, according to unofficial results. The four counties in the Pittsburgh-area district reported they had about 375 uncounted provisional, military and overseas ballots. They have seven days to count the provisional ballots, and the deadline to receive military and overseas ballots is next Tuesday. With the margin so close, supporters of either candidate can ask for a recount."

Politico (3/14, Schneider) reported that the contest "appears headed to a recount, with Republicans preparing behind the scenes to cry foul." Republicans are "considering challenging the accuracy of voting machines in the district, in addition to confusion over the state's changing congressional map later this year, according to two sources familiar with the process." Pennsylvania "law does not require an automatic recount in congressional races." However, "Saccone and his allies can request a

recount after all the counties have completed their tallying of provisional and overseas military ballots.”

The Washington Times (3/14, Miller) reports that the White House on Wednesday sought “to put a happy face on a likely Democratic win in a Pennsylvania special election where...Trump went all-in for the GOP candidate.” White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah is quoted as saying, “The president’s engagement in the race turned what was a deficit for the Republican candidate to what is essentially a tie. Also the Democrat in the race really embraced the president’s policies and his vision whereas he didn’t really embrace [House Minority Leader] Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader.” In a similar report on Shah’s remarks, The Hill (3/14, Easley) said the White House argued Lamb “won by embracing President Trump’s policies.”

However, on ABC World News Tonight (3/14, story 3, 2:00, Muir), Tom Llamas reported that “regardless of the final outcome, Democrats say their success” in the PA18 “is proof momentum is in their favor heading into the midterms.” The AP (3/14, Mascaro) reports, “The message to Republicans from the Pennsylvania special election was simple: Almost no one is safe.” The AP adds that Trump “won more than 100 districts nationwide by narrower margins than” his 20-point win in the PA18 in 2016, “arguably making them comparably competitive now.”

DNC Chairman Tom Perez said on Fox News’ Special Report (3/14), “You look around right now, there are 118 districts that are actually more competitive than the district that was won yesterday. ... So, if I am a Republican, I am very worried right now, because Democrats are fired up. We are fielding good candidates. That’s a big lesson from this. We are organizing everywhere and we are talking about the issues that people care the most about.”

The Philadelphia Inquirer (3/14, Tamari) reports, “Running in deep red rural and suburban territory outside Pittsburgh, Saccone pledged his loyalty to...Trump, had help from two of Trump’s famous rallies, and saw the GOP spend millions of dollars on his behalf, much of it centering on the president’s signature tax bill. But none of that seemed to work.” In an analysis, the AP (3/14, Peoples) says “there are 106...House districts Trump won by less than 20 points, suggesting that scores more Republican-held seats could be in play this fall. Democrats need to flip 24 seats to claim the House majority — just 23 if Lamb wins. Both numbers increasingly look reachable. For GOP strategists, or those members considering retirement, it may be time to hit the panic button.”

Writing in “The Fix” on the website of the Washington Post (3/14, Phillips), Amber Phillips said “the fact that Democrats were competitive in such a Republican-leaning district makes the 24 seats they need to net in November look much more feasible.” Writing for The Atlantic (3/11), Ronald Brownstein said that the results marked the first time since Trump’s election that Democrats regained “ground with the white working-class voters at the core of the president’s coalition.” Brownstein added that

"Lamb's apparent win testified to how much energy opposition to Trump has ignited among Democrats everywhere."

The Hill (3/14, Wilson) reported that "the results illustrate the challenge Republicans face even in a district...Trump won by more than 20 percentage points just 16 months ago: Voters who were motivated to show up for Trump are far less motivated to show up for other members of his party, even when Trump himself implores them to vote." Writing for the Washington Post (3/14), Dan Balz says that PA18 contest "isn't the first data point to show Republicans that they're in trouble, but if there was any complacency among elected officials, that's certainly gone now." Of the election results, Balz adds, "The message was clear. In this election cycle, Trump is a great motivator for Democrats, who still feel the sting of the 2016 election and are eager to vote in opposition to the president."

The Washington Times (3/14, Boyer) reports, "The midterm election year is off to an ugly start for...Trump." The Times adds, "Mid-term elections typically go against the party holding the White House, as Mr. Trump has been warning his base. But the special election in southwestern Pennsylvania took place in 'Trump country,' a district the GOP should have held." Of the PA18 results, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) said on CNN's The Lead (3/14), "I think it is a big lesson. It's a lesson that you can only drill down on the base so far. We've got to broaden our appeal and that's why I've been worried about where the Republican party is going. We can't win statewide elections like this. We can't win in purple districts like. This should be a big wake-up call for Republicans."

Reuters (3/14, Morgan) reports that in the wake of Tuesday's results, "Republicans sounded the alarm." Reuters says House Speaker Paul Ryan "called the election a 'wake-up call' in a meeting with Republican House members and pushed them to raise more campaign funds. He also urged them to do more to highlight tax cuts approved by the Republican-dominated Congress and signed by Trump."

The Hill (3/14, Zanona, Wong) reported that House Republicans "are fretting over the results of" the contest, "worried that the tight race in the heart of Trump country might be a harbinger of a Democratic wave in the midterm elections later this year. There's a '50-50' chance that Democrats can flip the House, senior Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) told CNN," for example.

The Washington Examiner (3/14, Caralle) reported that retiring Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA), during a Wednesday appearance on CNN, said, "I think most Republicans realize we're running into a very serious headwind - hurricane-force wind." And referring to the PA18 contest, Dent added that "if you're a Republican member in a pretty safe seat like this one was, that's where I'd be nervous because those members are not used to running in these types of competitive situations."

Politico (3/14, Bade, Isenstadt) reported that on Wednesday, "GOP leaders warned lawmakers that the outcome in the pro-Trump district could spell disaster in the midterms if they don't respond forcefully, but many lawmakers dismissed the race as an anomaly and seemed to be in

denial." In an online article, [CNN](#) (3/14, Killough, Serfaty, Bradner) reported that Ryan, speaking with reporters, described the contest "as a race between 'two conservatives,'" defining Lamb "as a 'pro-life, pro-gun, anti-Nancy Pelosi conservative' and not[ing] that there wasn't a Democratic primary that would have pulled Lamb to the left." Ryan "said he doubts this will become a trend in Republican-leaning districts because there wasn't a primary."

In an online article, [ABC News](#) (3/14, Parkinson) reported that some House Republicans discounted "Lamb's strong performance as an aberration and not a bellwether heading into this fall's congressional midterms." For example, Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) told ABC News, "I think Mr. Lamb was brilliant. He ran as a Republican. So, it worked for him. He certainly didn't run as a Democrat." [Roll Call](#) (3/14, Bowman) reported, "Republicans downplayed Tuesday's special election," though "it's another reminder of the tough midterm election cycle ahead, they said."

[USA Today](#) (3/14, Jackson) reports that Democrats viewed "the vote as a sign that an anti-Trump backlash could carry them to a congressional majority in the elections in November." And though "Republicans downplayed the" results, "political analysts said things look good for Democrats as they try to wrest House and Senate majorities from the Republicans and Trump."

The [New York Times](#) (3/14, Baker, Shear) reports that as Trump "hobnobbed on Tuesday night with wealthy donors in the exclusive enclave of Beverly Park, the voters in the suburbs south of Pittsburgh were in revolt, giving" Lamb "a narrow victory. ... Just as they did outside Birmingham and Montgomery, Ala., in December, and Richmond, Va., and Washington in November, energized and angry suburban voters" swamped "the Trump stalwarts in the more rural parts of" the PA18, "sending a clear message to Republicans around the country."

In an online article, [CNN](#) (3/14, Levy) reports that in the wake of the PA18 contest "and Alabama's special Senate election in December, national Democrats feel confident they have found a way to succeed by working behind the scenes with campaigns and focusing their efforts early on defining Republican candidates on issues that matter locally." CNN added, "The new Democratic approach is informed in part by lessons learned during last year's special congressional elections." Referring to the 2016 GA6 special election, "a Democratic operative" told CNN. "Everyone learned their lesson from Jon Ossoff. We realized that nationalizing a race like that obviously didn't work and ultimately we lost."

In his [New York Times](#) (3/14, Bruni) column, Frank Bruni says "Lamb's showing – win, lose or draw – is remarkable. ... Clearly, the opposition to Trump is energized and organized. Just as clearly, Trump's style of governing – bereft of truth, lavish with chaos, crude and divisive – has diminished his standing and given his rivals an enormous window of opportunity."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/14, Board) says the PA18

results "are just the latest sign that Republicans' toxic embrace of...Trump is hurting not only the country but also their party." The Post adds that "Saccone chose to associate closely with the president, claiming that he was 'Trump before Trump was Trump.' Suburban voters punished him."

In his Wall Street Journal (3/14) column, Karl Rove says that the PA18 results show that GOP candidates should craft their own messages and not simply run as versions of Trump. Rove adds that if GOP candidates are to be successful this fall, they need to raise adequate amounts of money, microtarget Republican voters who often sit out midterm elections, recruit, train, and motivate scores of volunteers to help turn out the vote.

**Media Analyses: Lamb Was A Perfect Fit For PA18.** In a profile of Lamb, the New York Times (3/14, Tackett, Martin) says, "A former Marine who favored gun rights, he was culturally conservative enough to appeal to rural voters. He was pro labor and pro tariff in an area that still has thousands of steelworkers union members. As a federal prosecutor, he cracked down on drug dealers but also offered empathy about the tragedy of opioid addiction. And his Ivy League polish and earnest manner played well with college-educated suburban voters. And now, with his" win, Lamb "has offered a template that will be studied in congressional races where Democratic candidates need to win over voters who supported...Trump."

In an analysis, USA Today (3/14, Shesgreen) reports that "Tuesday's results show that the right kind of Democrat can win over both the suburban and working-class voters who favored Republicans in previous elections." USA Today adds that "Democrats had an ideal candidate in Lamb, an ex-Marine and former prosecutor who fit with the conservative blue-collar mold of the Pennsylvania district."

Writing for Politico Magazine (3/14), Bill Scher said "the way Lamb won does little to help Democrats adjudicate the raging debate on the left over how should they run in November: as proud left-wing populists or relative moderates willing to reach across the aisle." In that debate, Lamb "didn't pick a side," taking "some positions from out of each camp's bucket, all while brandishing his assault rifle."

Writing for TIME (3/14), Philip Elliott said that "the bigger fight in 2018 is unlikely to be a carbon copy of what narrowly happened in" the PA18 "for a number of reasons," including that "Democrats avoided a messy primary fight in picking Lamb, a Marine veteran who secured the nomination by winning over 319 Democrats' backing in a high school gym filled with 554 activists back in November. In other scenarios, an energized activist base on the Left – populated by newcomers to the process who demand ideological purity – may have prevented Lamb from winning the nomination had there been a real contest."

Writing for the Washington Examiner (3/14, Jashinsky), Emily Jashinsky said that "Lamb is the type of conservative Democrat progressives want purged from the party. To replicate his success, Democrats will need to nominate candidates whose ideological orientations fit the districts in which they're running." Jashinsky added, "With much of



their base fixated on demanding ideological purity, nominating more Conor Lambs won't come easily for Democrats. To actually retake the House, they may need to retake their own party."

McClatchy (3/13, Glueck, Roarty) reported that "Democratic officials reject the notion that the type of candidate with Lamb's background and campaign will be an outlier this year, pointing to a handful of candidates similar in profile to Lamb who are also running in deep-red seats. 'From a practical perspective, if we lose this district by one percent or win this district by one percent, it doesn't make one bit of a difference,' said Ethan Todras-Whitehill, executive director of Swing Left, a progressive group trying to help Democrats win the House in 2018. 'Both of those things are huge sign of a wave.'"

In his Washington Post (3/14, Dionne) column, E.J. Dionne Jr. says, "The main path for a Democratic takeover of the House runs through Republican-held districts where Hillary Clinton defeated or lost only narrowly to Trump in 2016. But Lamb demonstrated that more moderate Democrats could harvest anti-Trump votes without waging an anti-Trump campaign." Dionne adds that "Lamb's breakthrough should petrify Republicans. The staunchest anti-Trump voters are clearly prepared to vote for Democratic candidates no matter their ideology."

Politico (3/14, Nelson) reported that Lamb "said Wednesday that his claimed victory in" the contest "came, at least in part, thanks to supporters of...Trump who voted for him." Appearing on CNN, Lamb said, "I was at a lot of polling places yesterday with cars parked outside of them that had president Trump's bumper sticker on them. So he's a popular person here. But I think that what happens when you campaign in real life as much as possible is that those divisions go away. Everyone gave me a fair shake and I know that there are people that voted for the president who also voted for me. And, you know, I thank them for hearing me out." The Washington Times (3/14, Persons) also highlights Lamb's remarks about Trump supporters.

Lamb was asked on MSNBC's Morning Joe (3/14) if the PA18 race holds any lessons for the midterms. Lamb said, "I wouldn't presume to give lessons to people outside the district. I think every district is pretty different. Hard work really pays off. ... I think in this environment...campaigning in real life, in small rooms, door-to-door, person-to-person, it works and I learned a lot doing it. I think it helped our campaign an awful lot and I would advise anybody no matter where they are to do that."

***More Democrats May Follow Lamb's Lead In Disavowing Pelosi.*** Politico (3/14, Schneider, Caygle) reported that Lamb "weathered \$10 million in attack ads cartoonishly calling" him "a member of Nancy Pelosi's liberal 'flock.'" Now other Democratic hopefuls are looking to adopt Lamb's strategy – he repeatedly and bluntly disavowed" Pelosi – "in their own competitive races. It raises the prospect of a slate of Democratic hopefuls running against" Pelosi "as they try to neutralize one of the GOP's go-to

attacks – a pillar of Republicans’ plan to keep the House majority in November.” Rep. Filemon Vela (D-TX), “a vocal critic of current leadership,” told Politico, “If we’re going to take the majority, it’s going to be because we win districts like that. Running against Nancy Pelosi is going to help you a lot more than running with her.”

The Washington Times (3/14, McLaughlin) reports, “Democrats claimed victory Wednesday in the close” PA18 contest, “but one loser could be emerging” in the aftermath: “Pelosi, who is becoming a liability to Democrats on both sides of the party’s ideological spectrum.” Appearing Wednesday on MSNBC, Lamb “pledged not to support Mrs. Pelosi as the House Democratic leader. ‘We need to sweep some new people in there,’ he said.”

In her Washington Post (3/14, Rampell) column, Catherine Rampell says that Lamb’s disavowing of Pelosi “echoed the positions of other Democrats already in Congress – disproportionately younger politicians, and from areas much bluer than” the PA18 – “who have also called for a new face for their party.” Rampell adds that “Democrats running in other districts may make not choose to jump on the anti-Pelosi train in the coming midterms. But you could also imagine Lamb’s strategy emboldening some of them...to pledge not to support her. Which means even if that ‘blue wave’ strikes in November, it still might wash away the current House minority leader.”

***WSJournal: GOP’s Tariffs, Pelosi-Related Attacks Failed To Boost Saccone.*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/14) says that the election results show Republicans need a better strategy this fall than supporting tariffs and using House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as a cudgel to hammer Democratic candidates. The Journal says that Lamb supported the new Trump-imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum tariffs and other Democratic candidates are likely to do so this fall. The Journal adds that the GOP sought to link Lamb to Pelosi, but the candidate neutralized that line of attack by saying he wouldn’t support Pelosi as Democratic leader.

### **High School Students Stage Walkout Across Nation In Support Of Gun Control.**

All three major networks led their newscasts last nights with reports on the high school students walkout in support of gun control measures.  ABC World News Tonight (3/14, lead story, 3:30, Muir) referred to “powerful images playing out across this country,” with “tens of thousands of students staging a massive coordinated protest against gun violence, one month after the shooting rampage killed 17 people at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.”

NBC Nightly News (3/14, lead story, 3:00, Gutierrez) said “across the country, the loudest lesson was outside the classroom,” because “a generation” is “sitting silent no more,” and the  CBS Evening News (3/14, lead story, 2:45, Diaz) spoke of “a sea of students” that “streamed out of the school behind a national movement,” and added that “while the

walkout was under way, the NRA tweeted, 'Let's work together and secure our schools and stop school violence. We protect our banks, our sports stadiums and our government buildings better than we protect our schools.' The NRA wants Congress to push through legislation increases school safety."

Reuters (3/14) reports that "with some students dressed in orange, the color adopted by the gun control movement, the walkouts began at 10 a.m. local time in each time zone and were scheduled to last 17 minutes. Many rallies went longer." Reuters adds that "the duration was a tribute to 17 students and staff killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School."

The Washington Post (3/14, Heim, Lang, Svrluga) says "supporters say the walkouts and demonstrations represent a realization of power and influence by young people raised on social media who have come of age in an era of never-ending wars, highly publicized mass shootings and virulent national politics." The AP (3/14, Binkley) says the "wave of protests" could be "the largest of its kind in American history," and the Wall Street Journal (3/14, Campo-Flores) runs a similar assessment.

The Washington Post (3/14) editorializes about the "extraordinary nationwide demonstration for safer schools and stronger gun control," and hails the "'Enough is Enough'...posters of a movement that has made clear it won't go away until something real is done to combat gun violence."

***South Carolina Governor Calls Student Walkouts Protesting Gun Violence "Shameful."*** The Hill (3/14, Gstalter) reported that Gov. Henry McMaster on Wednesday "blasted the national student walkout as a 'shameful' attempt by left-wing groups to push their own political agenda. 'It appears that these school children, innocent school children, are being used as a tool by [this] left-wing group to further their own agenda,' McMaster told South Carolina public television network ETV." McMaster added that the walkout is "a political statement by a left-wing group and it's shameful." The Hill added, "High school students in cities across the country including Washington, D.C., marched out of their classrooms for 17 minutes on Wednesday to protest gun violence a month after 17 students and faculty were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla." McMaster is seeking a full four-year term this fall.

### **Cabinet Members Make Case For "Transformative" Infrastructure Projects.**

The Washington Post (3/14, Laris) reports that in a joint appearance before the Senate Commerce Committee, Labor Secretary Acosta, Transportation Secretary Chao, Agriculture Secretary Perdue, Energy Secretary Perry, and Commerce Secretary Ross made the case for spending "\$20 billion on a range of risky but potentially 'transformative' infrastructure projects, such as satellite networks to provide rural broadband, new launchpads for private rockets, and 'augmented reality' technologies to visualize and manage urban traffic congestion." But after the hearing, Sen. John Thune said, "Unless someone's willing to bite the bullet and come up with a new

funding source, there are limitations to what we will be able to do.”

### **In 61-31 Vote, Senate Passes “Sweeping Rollback” Of Dodd-Frank.**

The Washington Post (3/14, Werner, Merle) reports that the Senate, in a 67-31 vote Wednesday, approved “the most significant loosening of financial regulations since the economic crisis a decade ago.” The measure “would free more than two dozen banks from the toughest regulatory scrutiny put in place after the 2008 global financial crisis.” While President Trump promised to do a “big number” on the Dodd-Frank law, “the new measure leaves key aspects of the earlier law in place.” However, the measure “amounts to a sweeping rollback of banking rules aimed at protecting taxpayers from another financial crisis and future bailouts.”

The New York Times (3/14, Rappeport) says that despite the “rare showing of bipartisanship” in the Senate, the bill “faces an uncertain fate going forward, as House Republicans are expected to push for a much more expansive rollback of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act.” Senate Democrats who supported the bill that passed Wednesday “have insisted that major changes along the lines of what the House passed last year will sink the effort.” However, the Wall Street Journal (3/14, Ackerman) is more optimistic, saying the measure has a good chance of passage.

Politico (3/14, Guida) says that while the President and other supporters of the legislation “say they want to rescue the nation’s lenders from a crush of regulations,” but “the industry looks more like it’s booming.” Over the last three years, banks “have hauled in record profits” and they “will be among the biggest winners under the new tax-reform law.” More over “their loans are growing by 4 to 5 percent a year,” and “even community banks, which the bill’s backers say they’re most concerned about, are making money.”

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

#### **New York Times.**

**“Trump Was Right To Block Merger.”** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/14) praises President Trump’s decision to block Broadcom’s takeover of Qualcomm “given the series of mergers that has left the semiconductor industry already dominated by a few large companies.” Although some experts fear that the move “could further rattle the global economy and international norms” following Trump’s proposed steel and aluminum tariffs, blocking the deal will help slow a “concentration of power...in the semiconductor business,” making it important for both protecting competition as well as national security.

#### **Washington Post.**

**“Britain Is Punishing Putin. America Should Join In.”** A Washington Post (3/14) editorial says “an adequate international response to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin would push back against his ventures on all fronts: Syria, where the United Nations has found Russia complicit in war

crimes; Ukraine, where Russian-backed forces continue to seek military advantage; cyberspace, where Russian hackers and bots remain ubiquitous. In the absence of such action, Mr. Putin's ambitions, and his audacity, will only escalate further."

***"What The Pennsylvania Election Should Teach Both Parties."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/14, Board) says the PA18 results "are just the latest sign that Republicans' toxic embrace of...Trump is hurting not only the country but also their party." The Post adds that "Saccone chose to associate closely with the president, claiming that he was 'Trump before Trump was Trump.' Suburban voters punished him."

***"Students Walking Out Of School Taught The Nation A Lesson."*** The Washington Post (3/14) editorializes about the "extraordinary nationwide demonstration for safer schools and stronger gun control," and hails the "'Enough is Enough'...posters of a movement that has made clear it won't go away until something real is done to combat gun violence."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

***"Kudlow Into The Breach."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/14) also hails President Trump's selection of Larry Kudlow to head the White House National Economic Council, and urges him to focus on spurring economic growth and to oppose protectionist policies. To that end, the Journal tells him to rely on Gary Cohn's staff, as well as on Kevin Hassett and Mick Mulvaney.

***"Trump's Pennsylvania Downdraft."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/14) says that the election results show Republicans need a better strategy this fall than supporting tariffs and using House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as a cudgel to hammer Democratic candidates. The Journal says that Lamb supported the new Trump-imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum tariffs and other Democratic candidates are likely to do so this fall. The Journal adds that the GOP sought to link Lamb to Pelosi, but the candidate neutralized that line of attack by saying he wouldn't support Pelosi as Democratic leader.

***"A Cancer Scare Defeat In California."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/14) praises the preliminary injunction issued two weeks ago by a federal judge in California against mandatory cancer warnings on certain food products. The judge ruled in favor of farm groups and businesses who sued after the state required warnings about the chemical glyphosate, and the Journal agrees with the agencies that have found this chemical is unlikely to pose a cancer risk. The Journal also agrees with the judge that the state can't compel businesses to issue "misleading" warnings, arguing that this will harm businesses and California citizens.

### **Big Picture**

---

#### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

##### ***Wall Street Journal:***

Theranos Founder Elizabeth Holmes Charged With Fraud

[Trump Organization Tied To Deal To Keep Ex-Porn Star Quiet](#)  
[Disney Sets Stage For Succession Race With Operational Overhaul](#)  
[What's The Biggest Trade On The New York Stock Exchange? The Last One](#)  
[UK Expels 23 Russian Diplomats Over Spy Poisoning](#)

***New York Times:***

[Thousands Walk Out Of Class, Urging Action On Gun Control](#)  
[Theresa May Expels Russian Diplomats. Now, The Hard Part.](#)  
[Democrat's Win In Pennsylvania Upends Parties' Midterm Plans](#)  
[Stephen Hawking Taught Us A Lot About How To Live](#)  
[Once A Silicon Valley Star, Theranos Chief Is Accused Of Fraud](#)

***Washington Post:***

[Trump Loyalist Kudlow To Lead Economic Council](#)  
[Britain Expels Russian Diplomats](#)  
[GOP Finds Pa. Setback "Difficult To Spin"](#)  
[SEC Alleges Widespread Fraud By Theranos](#)  
[He Saw A Universe Without Limits](#)  
["We're The Next Generation"](#)

***Financial Times:***

[Theranos Founder Charged With "Massive" Securities Fraud](#)  
[Stephen Hawking, Scientist, 1942-2018](#)  
[Google Bans Cryptocurrency Advertising](#)  
[US Believes Russia Responsible For Nerve Agent Attack In Britain](#)

***Washington Times:***

[As Kudlow Comes On Board, Other Top Trump Officials Likely Leaving](#)  
[Congress Plunges Into Gun Debate With School Safety Bill, Hearing On](#)  
[FBI's Cruz Failure](#)  
[Pennsylvania Win For Lamb Is Loss For Pelosi As Democrat Calls For New](#)  
[Leaders](#)  
[Contradiction — Students Favor "Free Speech" And Policies That Restrict It](#)  
[Such As Safe Spaces](#)  
[A Battered Department Crosses Its Fingers Over Pompeo Pick](#)  
[Land Grab Proposal Stokes Fears For White South African Farmers](#)

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** High School Students Walkout; McCabe-DOJ Investigation;  
Pennsylvania Special Election; White House Economic Adviser Pick; UK-  
Russia Relations; United Airline-Pet Death; Severe Weather; Priest Aides  
Criminal Capture; Navy Jet Crash; Nursing Student Murder; Baseball Player-  
Domestic Abuse; Stephen Hawking Dies.

**CBS:** High School Students Walkout; Florida School Shooter Trial;  
California-Shot Fired In Classroom; Navy Jet Crash; Avalanche-Soldiers  
Hurt; Trump Admin-Staff Changes; McCabe-DOJ Investigation; UK-Russia

Relations; Russia-Ukraine Occupation; Healthy Women-Decreased Dementia Rate; United Airline-Pet Death; Silicon Valley Civil Fraud; Ford Vehicles Recall; Toys R Us Bankruptcy; Stephen Hawking Dies.

**NBC:** High School Students Walkout; High School Students Walkout-Students; United Airline-Pet Death; Pennsylvania Special Election; Toys R Us Bankruptcy; UK-Russia Relations; California-Shot Fired In Classroom; Stephen Hawking Dies; Grocery Delivery Services; Ford Vehicles Recall; Baby Expert Dies; Natural Wonders-Bird Eye's View.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

High School Students Walkout – 10 minutes, 25 seconds

United Airline-Pet Death – 6 minutes, 40 seconds

UK-Russia Relations – 5 minutes, 5 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Pennsylvania Special Election; Congress-School Safety Law; Navy Jet Crash; Birmingham-Shooting; UK-Russia Relations; Wall Street News.

**CBS:** High School Students Walkout; Florida School Shooter Trial; Navy Jet Crash; McCabe-DOJ Investigation; Trump Admin-Staff Changes; Wall Street Reform Roleback.

**FOX:** Congress-School Safety Law; High School Students Walkout; UK-Russia Relations; Trump Admin-Staff Changes; Navy Jet Crash.

**NPR:** Wall Street Reform Roleback; High School Students Walkout; Trump-Business Roundtable; Toys R Us Bankruptcy.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

**PRESIDENT TRUMP** — Participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Varadkar of Ireland; attends the Friends of Ireland luncheon; meets with members of the American Petroleum Institute; meets with Bill Gates; delivers remarks and participates in the Shamrock Bowl Presentation by Prime Minister Varadkar.

**VICE PRESIDENT PENCE** — Joins the President in the Friends of Ireland luncheon.

**US Senate:** 9:30 AM Hearing on 'United States Pacific Command', with testimony from U.S. Pacific Command Commander Adm. Harry Harris Jr. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Joel Carson III to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; Colm Connolly and Maryellen Noreika to be U.S. District Judges for the District of Delaware; William Jung to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Ryan Holte to be U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge; Jonathan Mitchell to be Administrative Conference of the United

States Chairman; William McSwain to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Matthew Harris to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Utah; Johnny Lee Kuhlman to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Oklahoma; Joseph McClain to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Indiana; and David Weaver to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Colorado  
 Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Business Meeting, to consider the nomination of Dr James Reilly II to be U.S. Geological Survey Director Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC [www.energy.senate.gov](http://www.energy.senate.gov)

10:00 AM CANCELED: Secretary of State Tillerson testifies to Senate Foreign Relations Committee on FY'18 budget and redesign plans – CANCELED: Hearing on 'Review of the FY 2019 State Department Budget Request and Redesign Plans', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson \* President Donald Trump announced Secretary Tillerson's departure from the role and his nomination of CIA Director Mike Pompeo as his replacement Tuesday Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM NO LONGER ON CALENDAR: Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing on USFS FY'19 budget – NO LONGER ON CALENDAR: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing 'To Examine the President's Budget Request for the U.S. Forest Service for Fiscal Year 2019' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Lt. Gen. Paul Nakasone to be National Security Agency Director Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the 340B Drug Discount Program – Hearing on 'Perspectives on the 340B Drug Discount Program', with testimony from America's Essential Hospitals President and CEO Bruce Siegel; Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Executive Vice President for Policy, Research & Membership Lori Reilly; Carolina Health Centers President and CEO Sue Veer; and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Government Relations Division Director Joseph Hill III Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee considers DOE nominees – Nominations hearing considers Theodore Garrish to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs; and James Edward Campos to be Department of Energy Office of Minority Economic Impact Director Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

2:00 PM Georgian President Margvelashvili and Dem Sen. Amy Klobuchar speak on U.S.-Georgia relations at Atlantic Council – 'The U.S.-Georgia Partnership' Atlantic Council panel discussion, on the 'importance of Georgia's path forward and the U.S.-Georgia partnership for



transatlantic security'. Speakers include Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili, Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar, former UK Ambassador to Georgia Alexandra Hall, Kennan Institute Global Fellow and Department of Government Conflict Resolution Program Director Kenneth Yalowitz, and Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs The Future of Diplomacy Project Senior Fellow Paula Dobriansky Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC

<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>

**US House:** 9:30 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H. Res. 644, Strongly condemning the slave auctions of migrants and refugees in Libya, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 4681, No Assistance for Assad Act', 'H.R. 4744, Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act', and 'H. Con. Res. 111, Recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC

<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

9:30 AM POSTPONED – Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – The Department of Transportation', with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao. POSTPONED:

<https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=395120> Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2358-A, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Oversight and Government Reform markup hearing – Markup: H.R. 50 Foxx Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2017; H.R. 1339 Duncan-TN Freedom from Government Competition Act of 2017; H.R. 2846 Farenthold Federal Agency Customer Experience Act of 2017; H.R. 4809 Walker GOOD Act; H.R. \_\_\_ Farenthold Office of Government Information Services Empowerment Act of 2018; H.R. 1376 Cummings Electronic Message Preservation Act of 2017; H.R. 3303 Connolly First Responder Fair RETIRE Act; H.R. 4446 Plaskett To amend. Location: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Veterans Affairs', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2362-A, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the CFIUS – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States 'titled 'Evaluating CFIUS: Administration Perspectives', with testimony from Assistant

Secretary of the Treasury for International Markets and Investment Policy Heath Tarbert; Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration Richard Ashooh; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy Eric Chewning Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC

<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on water resources infrastructure – Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Water Resources Projects and Policy', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General and Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Armed Services Committee hearing on security challenges in Europe – Hearing on 'Security Challenges in Europe and Posture for Inter-state Competition with Russia', with testimony from U.S. European Command Commander Gen. Mike Scaparrotti Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC

[www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRepublicans>

10:00 AM FEMA administrator and San Juan mayor testify to House Homeland Security Committee on lessons from 2017 disasters – Hearing on 'Preparedness, Response, and Rebuilding: Lessons from the 2017 Disasters', with testimony from FEMA Administrator Brock Long; San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz Soto; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Ed Jackson Jr.; Department of Homeland Security Acting Inspector General John Kelly; Office of the Texas Governor COO Reed Clay; Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Wesley Maul; and Puerto Rico Committee on Federal and International Relations, and Status Vice-Chairman Jose Melendez-Ortiz Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC [homeland.house.gov](http://homeland.house.gov)

<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Business Meeting Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

<http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM Interior Secretary Zinke testifies to House Natural Resources Committee on FY'19 budget – Oversight hearing on 'Policy Priorities at the Department of the Interior and the Administration's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Proposal', with testimony from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition Olivia Barton Ferriter; and Department of the Interior Office of Budget Director Denise Flanagan Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Science and Technology Committee hearing on NSF budget – Hearing on 'An Overview of the National Science Foundation Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2019', with testimony from NSF Director Dr France Cordova; and National Science Board Chairman Dr Maria Zuber  
Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on work in welfare programs – Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee hearing on 'Strengthening Access and Accountability to Work in Welfare Programs', with testimony from Office of the Kentucky Governor Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Adam Meier; American Enterprise Institute Fellow in Poverty Studies Robert Doar; Urban Institute Senior Fellow Dr Heather Hahn; and Utah Department of Workforce Services Workforce Development Program and Policy Division Director and TANF Administrator Liz Carver  
Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Veterans Affairs subcommittee hearing on FY'19 VHA budget request – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'FY 2019 Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for the Veterans Health Administration', with testimony from representatives of Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, and Department of Veterans Affairs  
Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC  
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Energy Secretary Perry testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – The Department of Energy', with testimony from Secretary of Energy Rick Perry  
Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2362-B, Washington, DC  
<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM HHS Secretary Azar testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Department of Health and Human Services', with testimony from Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar  
Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2358-C, Washington, DC  
<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Army budget – Defense Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Army', with testimony from Secretary of the Army Dr Mark Esper; and U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley  
Location: U.S. Capitol, H-140, Washington, DC  
<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 4545 – Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act' and 'H.R. 4263 – Regulation A+

Improvement Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

<http://www.house.gov/>

1:30 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USDA IG budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Office of the Inspector General, Department of Agriculture', with testimony from U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General Phyllis Fong, Assistant Inspector General for Audit Gil Harden, and Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Ann Coffey Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 4545 – Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act' and 'H.R. 4263 – Regulation A+ Improvement Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC  
<http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on monetization and illicit use of stolen data – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on 'After the Breach: the Monetization and Illicit Use of Stolen Data', with testimony from RAND Corporation Information Scientist Lillian Ablon; McAfee Chief Strategist Joe Bernik; Carnegie Mellon University Associate Research Professor Dr Nicolas Christin; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Senior Vice President Dr James Lewis Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC  
<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittees joint oversight hearing on FY'19 VBA and Board of Veterans' Appeals budgets – Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and Economic Opportunity Subcommittee joint oversight hearing on 'U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2019 Budget: Veterans Benefits Administration and the Board of Veterans' Appeals', with testimony from Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals Chairman Cheryl Mason; Veterans Benefits Administration Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary James Manker Jr.; VA Office of Information and Technology Deputy CIO Lloyd Thrower; The American Legion Legislative Division Director Matthew Shuman; Disabled American Veterans Assistant National Legislative Director Shane Liermann; and Student Veterans of America Director of Policy Lauren Augustine Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Oversight Committee hearing on federal permitting processes – Hearing on 'An Examination of Federal Permitting Processes', with testimony from Marquette County Road Commission Engineer-Manager James Iwanicki; Heritage Foundation Senior Research Fellow in Regulatory Policy Diane Katz; The ESG Companies Vice President and CFO

Valerie Wilkinson; and Center for American Progress Director of Infrastructure Policy Kevin DeGood Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on 'Bang for the Border Security Buck' – Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Bang for the Border Security Buck: What do we get for \$33 billion?', with testimony from Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management Claire Grady; Customs and Border Protection Acting Deputy Commissioner Ronald Vitiello; Government Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Rebecca Gambler; National Border Patrol Council National President Brandon Judd; and National Treasury Employees Union National President Anthony Reardon Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC [homeland.house.gov](http://homeland.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on abandoned hardrock mines – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Abandoned Hardrock Mines and the Role of Non-Governmental Entities' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

3:00 PM 'Black Wealth Creation & Economic Empowerment through Franchising' roundtable discussion – 'Black Wealth Creation & Economic Empowerment through Franchising' roundtable discussion, hosted by the U.S. Black Chambers, Rainbow Push Coalition, International Franchise Association, and Office of Democratic Rep. Gregory Meeks, with lawmakers discussing 'policies that can help generate wealth creation in the Black community and how the franchising model can remove barriers to entry for Black entrepreneurs' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 441, Washington, DC [www.usblackchambers.org](http://www.usblackchambers.org) <https://twitter.com/usblackchambers>

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on FY'19 budget for national security space programs – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for National Security Space Programs', with testimony from Air Force Space Command Commander Gen. John Raymond; National Reconnaissance Office Director Betty Sapp; and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security Kenneth Rapuano Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

Friends of Ireland Luncheon on Capitol Hill – House Speaker Paul Ryan hosts the annual Friends of Ireland Luncheon, with President Donald Trump and Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar participating, as 'an ode to St. Patrick's Day and strong U.S.-Ireland ties' \* Irish tenor Anthony Kearns performs \* Rep. Ryan has described the event as 'equal parts beer and bipartisanship', though President Trump is teetotal \* The

luncheon tradition was started in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan and House Speaker Tip O'Neill to signify their bipartisan commitment to peace and security in Ireland Location: U.S. Capitol, Rayburn Rm, Washington, DC [www.speaker.gov](http://www.speaker.gov) <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

**Other:** 8:00 AM GOP Rep. John Shimkus speaks at Atlantic Council report launch – 'Strategic Oil Product Stockholding: International Experience & US Prospects' Atlantic Council Global Energy Center Senior Fellow Phillip Cornell's report launch, with Atlantic Council Global Energy Center Founding Director and Chairman Amb. (Ret.) Richard Morningstar, Republican Rep. John Shimkus, American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers Chief Industry Analyst Susan Grissom, and Atlantic Council Global Energy Center Senior Fellow Melanie Kenderdine Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/ACGlobalEnergy> #ACEnergy

8:00 AM Octogenarians launch Alliance for Responsible Leaders to protect health services – Octogenarians Fran and Bernie Alpert, who have been married 60 years, launch their new group, the Alliance for Responsible Leaders, with day in Washington, DC to send a message to President Donald Trump 'to quit tweeting and get to work keeping the promises he made to seniors to protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security' Agenda includes arrival at the White House, media availability and shooting of live video message for President Trump, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC (8:00 AM EDT); travel to Capitol Hill (8:45 AM EDT); meeting with Democratic Sen. Bob Casey, Rm 393 Russell Senate Office Bldg (10:30 AM EDT); media availability in the Capitol area (11:00 AM EDT and 2:30 PM EDT); lunch meeting with Democratic Rep. Brad Schneider, Sonoma Restaurant, 223 Pennsylvania Ave SE (12:00 PM EDT); and meetings with the offices of Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy, Rm 126 Hart Senate Office Bldg (3:30 PM EDT) and of Democratic Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Rm 2367 Rayburn House Office Bldg (4:15 PM EDT) Location: Washington, DC

[www.allianceforresponsibleleaders.org](http://www.allianceforresponsibleleaders.org) <https://twitter.com/BernieAndFran>

12:15 PM GOP Sen. Marco Rubio speaks on U.S. interests in Latin America at Heritage Foundation – Republican Sen. Marco Rubio speaks at the Heritage Foundation on 'Countering Authoritarianism and Advancing U.S. Interests in Latin America', addressing why such repression matters to the U.S. and what should be done to counter and overcome it Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC [www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org) <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:30 PM GOP Sen. Jeff Flake speaks at NPC – NPC Headliners Luncheon with Republican Sen. Jeff Flake speaking on 'Truth, Falsehoods, and the Dangerous State of Our Politics: A Way Forward' Location: The National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

1:00 PM NSA McMaster keynotes U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum event marking Syria conflict anniversary – 'Syria: Is the Worst Yet to

Come?' U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum event marking 7th anniversary of the Syrian conflict, to examine the 'ongoing atrocities against civilians' and highlight the 'strength and resilience of the Syrian people in the face of these crimes'. Includes keynote from National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, with panelists including Syrian American Medical Society Member Samer Attar, FREE-Syria Co-founder and Director Rafif Jouejati and a representative from Syrian Civil Defense Location: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Pl SW, Washington, DC <http://www.ushmm.org/> <https://twitter.com/HolocaustMuseum>

2:00 PM GOP Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Mia Love speak at Heritage Foundation – 'Empowering Women through Conservative Policy' Heritage Foundation discussion, with House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Republican Rep. Mia Love speaking on 'a more dynamic way' to understand women's issues and the intersection of public policy, free enterprise, and family life Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC [www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org) <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

4:00 PM Atlantic Council discussion on the Maldives – 'Crisis in Maldives: Implications for U.S. Policy in the Indo-Pacific' Atlantic Council South Asia Center and Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security panel discussion, on the ongoing political turmoil in the Maldives following President Abdulla Yameen's implementation of a state of emergency. Speakers include former Maldives Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Naseem Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil> #ACSouthAsia

6:00 PM 'Pakistan Relations with the US and Regional Developments in South Asia' WFPG discussion – Women's Foreign Policy Group Embassy Series host 'Pakistan Relations with the US and Regional Developments in South Asia', with Pakistan Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry Location: 3517 International Ct NW, Washington, DC [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org) <https://twitter.com/wfpg>

7:00 PM 2018 Congressional Hockey Challenge – 10th annual Congressional Hockey Challenge – charity game between lawmakers (Members of Congress, Congressional staff, administration officials, USA Warriors Hockey team members) and lobbyists. Players include Reps. Erik Paulsen, Mike Quigley, Tom Emmer, Larry Bucshon, John Katko, and Brian Higgins, and lobbyists from companies including Associated General Contractors of America, UPS, JetBlue, and Google Location: Kettler Capitals Iceplex, 627 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA <http://congressionalhockeychallenge.com/> <https://twitter.com/HockeyCHC>

## **Last Laughs**

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

*Jimmy Kimmel:* "Melania is back and planning to meet with representatives from Twitter, Facebook, Google, and others to lead the fight against online

bullying. Apparently, the word 'irony' doesn't translate from Slovenian. But all she has to do to fight cyber-bullying is take a hammer to her husband's thumbs and phone. Melania Trump holding a summit to stop cyber-bullying is like Camille Cosby calling a meeting with Benadryl."

**Stephen Colbert:** "One journalist has heard that [Stormy] Daniels suggests Trump likes it when women aren't nice to him, treat him in, perhaps, denigrating ways. Well, I knew Trump was a bad President, but I didn't know that Trump was 'a bad President.'"

**Stephen Colbert:** "In addition to Rex Tillerson, Gary Cohn, and Hope Hicks, we also learned that Trump's personal assistant was just fired, although he was actually escorted from the White House on Monday. I assume he wanted to beat the rush. ... Apparently, [John] McEntee was fired because he is currently under investigation by the Department of Homeland Security for serious financial crimes. And that's Jared Kushner's job. ... So Trump is now without a personal assistant, but he's already had one qualified applicant apply for the job: Tex Rillerson."

**James Corden:** "President Trump was in San Diego yesterday giving a speech to assembled members of the Marine Corps, and at one point the President said he wants to create a new branch of the military that would patrol outer space. And get this, he wants to call it the 'Space Force.' I'm not joking. 'Space force.' It sounds like what my grandma calls Star Wars. ... But the President didn't stop there. In the same speech, Trump claimed that the United States would be going to Mars, quote, 'very soon.' Damn, that space force works fast. ... I give him credit for not following that up with saying the Martians are going to pay for it."

**James Corden:** "While the President was in San Diego, he examined some prototypes of his proposed border wall with Mexico. And Trump remarked that the wall must be a tough obstacle because people trying to cross the border are, quote, 'like professional mountain climbers.' ... Trump basically thinks everyone trying to get into America illegally is some sort of Mexican Batman. But look, I'm no big idea man like Donald Trump. I'm not, okay? But obviously, obviously, if you build the wall high enough, the 'Space Force' can just take it from there."

**Trevor Noah:** "Ever since the shooting in Parkland, Florida, young people have been leading the charge for sensible gun reform. And today, on the one-month anniversary of that shooting, they kicked things up a notch with



a nationwide school walkout. That's right, for once, the students evacuated on their own terms."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "[In a speech yesterday], Trump talked about going to Mars. Listen to what he said about it." **President Donald Trump:** "Very soon, we're going to Mars. You wouldn't have been going to Mars if my opponent won, that I can tell you. You wouldn't even be thinking about it." **Fallon:** "And the Martians were like, 'Okay, we need to build a wall. Have Uranus pay for it.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Trump looked at prototypes for his border wall to decide what it should be made of. So far, he's narrowed it down to three materials. First there's concrete. Then there's metal. And his personal favorite, fired White House staffers."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "I heard that Trump wants to fire his Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Trump said he might do the job himself since he's a veteran of several affairs."

**Seth Meyers:** "After Democratic candidate Conor Lamb declared victory last night in Pennsylvania's special election, a 'Fox And Friends' host suggested that Lamb won because of his attractive looks. Because if there's one thing that Congress is full of, it's stone-cold hotties."

**Seth Meyers:** "President Trump was in California this week to view prototypes of his proposed border wall and said parts of the wall would have see-through capability. Said his architect, 'In that case, it's done?'"

**Seth Meyers:** "First Lady Melania Trump will host tech industry leaders at the White House next week to discuss her campaign against cyber-bullying where she's expected to say, 'You guys talk to him!'"

**Jordan Klepper:** "A special congressional election last night in District 18 which Trump won by 20 points may have turned blue and elected Democrat Conor Lamb. I know, I am upset as well because districts are like body parts. When they turn blue, something has gone terribly wrong. Now until a recount confirms my truth, it looks like Democrat Conor Lamb has flipped the district. How? By using a devious tactic focusing on, and I hope I am saying this right, local issues."

**Jordan Klepper:** [Referring to Trump's CIA Director pick Gina Haspel] "There is an old saying that behind every great woman in the Trump Administration, there are three men who were hired for her job first but committed treason or perjury or fraud or domestic abuse or general ineptitude, and then after a long period of public outcry, they were gently asked to submit their resignations in a cloud of shame, but when that cloud settled, who was left standing there? A woman."

**Samantha Bee:** "We said hello to a new Democratic Representative from Pennsylvania, Conor Lamb, who squeaked out a victory by less than a thousand votes. Two years ago, Trump won this area by more than 20 points. ... I'm enjoying this new radical Democratic strategy called 'trying.' Really makes you wonder, what if we keep trying?"

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-03-16T10:36:18-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: Ride  
**Received:** 2018-03-16T10:37:01-04:00

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** David Monahan <dmonahan@aloha.net>  
**Date:** 03/14/2018 19:16 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** Ryan Zinke <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Caroline Personal <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Ride

Great and Howdy!

Thanks.

I'm with Tom in Kauai today.

I'll pass your regards along.

Looking forward to meeting you and showing you the camps.

All I need to get you set up is a mailing address for you, a short bio and your +2 names so they can prepare their badges.

Tom and I think The Long ride on Sunday and activities on Monday & Tuesday are the most interesting (arrive on Saturday), if your schedule can allow.

If not, the Friday- Monday is also very good. Just let me know.

I will probably meet you and get you set up on your arrival.

You should enjoy this, it is unique.

Call any time if you have questions.

With regards,

Dave

David J. Monahan  
(b)(6)

On Mar 14, 2018, at 8:06 AM, Ryan Zinke <(b)(6)> wrote:

Dave, Ryan Zinke here. Thank you for the email and I look forward to the ride. I will have my security team contact you shortly with the details. All the best. Z

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-03-16T10:38:36-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Whitehouse tour  
**Received:** 2018-03-16T10:39:11-04:00

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Sean Frampton <sean@framptonpurdy.com>  
**Date:** 03/14/2018 11:27 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** ryanzinke (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Whitehouse tour

Ryan,

My Dad is taking my son, Luke, to DC and is wondering about a tour of the WH between March 24-29. I don't know if they should just research online for tours or if you have someone that can assist as you did with my daughter, Maria. If the latter, please send me the name of someone to contact. Thank you very much for your time; I can only imagine how busy you are.

Sean

Frampton Purdy Law Firm

530 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street

Whitefish, MT 59937

(406) 862-9600

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Laura Rigas  
**Sent:** 2018-03-19T09:20:09-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Morning Energy, presented by Chevron: What's the Senate hold up? — Biofuels cap alarms corn states — Regulators tamp down Russian fears  
**Received:** 2018-03-19T09:20:18-04:00

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy <[politicoemail@politicopro.com](mailto:politicoemail@politicopro.com)>  
**Date:** March 19, 2018 at 2:52:12 AM MST  
**To:** <[Laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Morning Energy, presented by Chevron: What's the Senate hold up? — Biofuels cap alarms corn states — Regulators tamp down Russian fears  
**Reply-To:** POLITICO subscriptions <[reply-fe95137475660d7c76-630326\\_HTML-795262248-1376319-0@politicoemail.com](mailto:reply-fe95137475660d7c76-630326_HTML-795262248-1376319-0@politicoemail.com)>

By Kelsey Tamborrino | 03/19/2018 05:49 AM EDT

*With help from Eric Wolff and Alex Guillén*

**STUCK IN THE MIDDLE WITH TRUMP'S APPOINTEES:** The Trump administration's emphasis on rapidly confirming judicial nominees and frequent White House shake-ups has left several nominees stuck in limbo, Senate Republicans say. While they place blame on Democrats for what they call unprecedented obstruction in filling vacancies — including at EPA and Interior — there's some frustration that the Senate itself hasn't done enough to get staff in place, Pro's Anthony Adragna reports.

**By the numbers:** There are currently 144 nominees awaiting Senate action, according to data tracked by The Washington Post and the Partnership for Public Service. And so far this year, the Senate has confirmed 71 nominees, 54 of those by voice vote. Ten of the remaining floor votes were for judicial nominations, while the other seven were for executive branch positions, Anthony writes. And since the start of the Trump administration, 393 civilian nominations have cleared the Senate, compared to 538 at this point of the Obama administration.

**"My observation is we're spending a lot more time moving** through the judges and less on the administration folks," Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski said last week. Lawmakers also say confirming Mike Pompeo as secretary of State will be the next priority in line, pushing other nominees back. Some GOP senators contend Democrats are drawing out the process simply to deprive the Trump

administration of fully-functioning agencies. That includes Sen. [Dan Sullivan](#), who complained the delays were "bulls---."

**But a spokesman for Minority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#) shot back** that the attacks were misplaced, since the White House has been historically slow at nominating people and has been forced to withdraw a slew of their own controversial picks. At the end of the day, the holds put in place by senators on several senior Interior and EPA nominees mean those positions are likely to remain vacant for a while, Anthony writes. That includes: Ryan Nelson to be Interior's solicitor and Susan Combs to be assistant secretary for policy, management, and budget, as well as Andrew Wheeler's selection to serve as EPA deputy administrator. Read the story [here](#).

**WELCOME TO MONDAY!** I'm your host Kelsey Tamborrino, and the Natural Resources Defense Council's Ed Chen was first to guess former President Lyndon B. Johnson was the only president to take the oath of office from a female official. Judge Sarah T. Hughes swore Johnson in aboard Air Force One. For today: To date, 16 senators have gone on to become president. Name the three who went directly from the Hill to the White House. Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to [ktamborrino@politico.com](mailto:ktamborrino@politico.com), or follow us on Twitter [@kelseytam](#), [@Morning\\_Energy](#), and [@POLITICOPro](#).

**POLITICO Space** is our new, free weekly briefing on the policies and personalities shaping the second space age in Washington and beyond. **Sign-up today to start receiving the newsletter right at launch on [April 6](#).** *Presented by Boeing.*

**BIOFUELS CAP ALARMS CORN STATES:** Negotiations to alter the contentious biofuels program may include a trigger mechanism that would kick in to cap prices for biofuel credits, Pro's Eric Wolff reports. But the proposal is already hitting heavy resistance among corn growers and senators from big ag states. The White House has supported recent talks between refining and agricultural groups to change the Renewable Fuel Standard, and modest progress has been made in recent days, Eric writes. Participants have been discussing an EPA waiver to expand sales of 15 percent ethanol gasoline blends — a plan that would also provide an incentive for those sales by attaching a multiplier to increase the number of Renewable Identification Numbers to help lower the costs for refiners.

**The new discussion around a triggered price cap** is an attempt to overcome opposition to refiners' proposal for a fixed two-year price cap that was discussed at a White House meeting with President Donald Trump in February, Eric writes. "Our biggest concern right now is that there continues to be out of the White House talk about a cap on RINs," said Jon Doggett, executive vice president for the National Corn Growers Association. "And until that's off the table and that's not going to happen, all the rest of these proposals are for naught." Read [more](#).

**Speaking of RIN caps:** Delaware Sen. [Tom Carper](#) sent [a letter](#) to Trump on Friday urging him to instruct the EPA to take action to stabilize price volatility in the

RIN market. "As someone who has both constituents who benefit from the RFS program and constituents who work at several of the last merchant refineries along the East Coast, I understand full well the difficulty of finding common ground on this issue," Carper wrote.

**REGULATORS TAMP DOWN RUSSIAN FEARS:** Nuclear energy regulators said Friday no operations were affected by Russia's cyber campaign to [hack U.S. energy companies](#), Pro's Tim Starks and Anthony report — and a nuclear industry organization said no U.S. plants reported cyberattacks during that time. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said that during the campaign, "there was no adverse impact to any of the NRC-regulated safety, security or emergency preparedness functions." Although it added, "the corporate networks of some NRC licensees were affected." The Nuclear Energy Institute was more forceful Friday, stating that "no U.S. nuclear plants have been breached by a cyberattack." More [here](#).

**UDALL: EPA HASN'T ANSWERED GAO REQUEST:** Following a request to the Government Accountability Office from Sen. [Tom Udall](#) for information about Pruitt's secure office phone booth, the senator will send a letter today to the administrator urging him to respond to the request. "[M]y staff has asked GAO for the status of its legal opinion several times only to be informed that, to date, GAO has yet to receive any information from the EPA despite GAO reaching out to the EPA numerous times," Udall writes. "I am alarmed that the EPA has failed — for nearly three months — to cooperate with GAO's request." Read the letter [here](#).

**NOT ALL SOLAR PANELS:** Friday was the deadline for companies to apply to the U.S. Trade Representative to get their purchases excluded from the 30 percent solar panel tariff Trump imposed in February. Four companies' filings appeared on [Regulations.gov](#) as of Sunday — which may just mean that other filings haven't appeared yet — and of those, California-based SunPower is the largest pure solar company. SunPower makes most of its panels in Malaysia, Philippines and Mexico, and it [made the case](#) to the U.S. Trade Representative that one of its technologies, called copper-plated IBC, was unique and could not be obtained from any other producer, but also relied on U.S. research and patents. The company also promised funds saved by a reduction in its tariffs would be used to invest in research and development here in the United States.

**For the curious,** DSM North America [asked](#) to have one of its technologies excluded, and OceanPlanet Energy, a company that puts solar on boats, [is seeking](#) to have non-Chinese semi-flexible panels excluded. SmartFlower North America [asked](#) to have its petal-shaped solar panels excluded.

**\*\* A message from Chevron:** Chevron and local partners are helping to provide DOERS with the hands-on technical training needed for today's jobs in the manufacturing and energy industries. Watch the video: <http://politi.co/2FJX1FF>

\*\*



**THE FINAL COUNTDOWN:** Congress' massive spending bill is expected to be released today, with mere days left until funding runs out. As soon as the \$1.3 trillion spending plan is revealed, Congress will jump back into a familiar pattern, likely coming perilously close to a Friday night deadline, Pro's Budget and Appropriations team [reports](#). There's an ever-growing list of riders requested in the omnibus to keep an eye out for, including a short-term extension for the National Flood Insurance Program, which runs out Friday, and House Majority Leader [Kevin McCarthy's](#) push to [include language](#) to allow the Shasta Dam project to move forward.

**FEMA TO RELAX FLOOD INSURANCE RESTRAINTS:** FEMA announced plans Friday in a Federal Register [notice](#) outlining its intention to ease restrictions on insurers seeking to offer private flood insurance, Pro's Zachary Warmbrodt reports. The FEMA plan would change arrangements with "Write Your Own" insurance companies that sell flood insurance policies on behalf of the NFIP, relaxing "non-compete" requirements that restrict how the companies can offer their own private flood insurance policies. Read [more](#).

**FOR YOUR RADAR:** The House will consider legislation under suspension of the rules, including [S. 2030 \(115\)](#), the "Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act." The bill, sponsored by Sen. [Thom Tillis](#), would delay the compliance date for efficiency standards for ceiling light kits until Jan. 21, 2020. Votes are postponed until 6:30 p.m.

**SPOTTED:** Carper giving a speech on clean air before an American Lung Association half marathon in Wilmington, Del., on Sunday. He wore bib #1.

**PERRY BACK ON THE HILL:** Energy Secretary Rick Perry will make two appearances this week on the Hill. The secretary [will testify Tuesday](#) on his agency's budget request before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and [will also testify Thursday](#) before the Senate Armed Services Committee on challenges for DOE's atomic energy defense programs.

**ZINKE TRIPS TO ARIZONA:** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spent the weekend in Arizona, where he toured the U.S.-Mexico border, the Associated Press reports. The secretary also viewed parts of the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge on horseback Saturday and [toured](#) the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Ajo on Sunday. He'll meet with the National Mining Association in the Phoenix area today, [AP writes](#), and will also host a roundtable discussion with tribal leaders to "discuss solutions to the national opioid epidemic," an Interior spokesperson [told the Tucson Sentinel](#).

**The Interior secretary defended his use of the greeting "konnichiwa"** in response to a question from Rep. [Colleen Hanabusa](#) on preserving internment sites, which Hawaii Sen. [Mazie Hirono](#) [called "flippant"](#) last week. "How could ever saying 'Good morning' be bad?" Zinke told reporters following a tour of the U.S.-Mexico border, [AZ Central reports](#).

**SAUDI PRINCE'S TRIP OPENS UP NUCLEAR TALKS:** Trump will meet Tuesday with the crown prince of Saudi Arabia. While no official details are yet available, the administration has pushed for a deal to sell nuclear reactors to the OPEC-member nation, which could be worth billions for U.S. businesses. The nation has been exploring a civilian nuclear energy program, possibly without restrictions on uranium enrichment and reprocessing that would be required under a U.S. cooperation deal. Talks would be unavoidably entangled with separate negotiations over the future of the Obama-era nuclear deal with Iran.

**Following reports that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** said Saudi Arabia would develop a nuclear weapon if Iran does, Democratic Sen. Ed Markey said in statement it was crucial that any nuclear cooperation agreement, or 123 agreement, meet the "gold standard" that prohibited the kingdom from enriching uranium or reprocessing plutonium. "Saudi Arabia's crown prince has confirmed what many have long suspected — nuclear energy in Saudi Arabia is about more than just electrical power, it's about geopolitical power," Markey said in a statement. "The United States must not compromise on nonproliferation standards in any 123 agreement it concludes with Saudi Arabia."

**CORKER: TRUMP LIKELY TO QUIT IRAN DEAL:** Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker said Sunday that he believes Trump is likely to pull the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal in May. "The Iran deal will be another issue that's coming up in May, and right now it doesn't feel like it's going to be extended," Corker told CBS' "Face the Nation," cautioning that circumstances could change as the May 12 deadline for a decision approaches. Read more.

**REPORT: LUKOIL TIED TO TRUMP-BACKED DATA FIRM:** Alexander Nix — a director of SCL Group and chief executive of Cambridge Analytica, which advised the Trump campaign and has come under fire for improperly collecting data on Facebook users — told British Parliament last month the company never worked with Russia. But The New York Times reports the firm's employees had contact in 2014 and 2015 with executives from Russian oil giant Lukoil. "Lukoil was interested in how data was used to target American voters," the Times writes via two former company insiders "who said there were at least three meetings with Lukoil executives in London and Turkey." Read more.

**IT'S NOT EASY MAKING PRUITT AG:** Victoria Bassetti, a fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, and Norman Eisen, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and former White House ethics lawyer, write for POLITICO Magazine that replacing Attorney General Jeff Sessions with Pruitt would be no easy task. Read it here.

**The Times reported on Pruitt's ambitions** this weekend, writing "[h]e is widely viewed as a future candidate for senator or governor there, and Mr. Pruitt has made it known that if the president replaces his beleaguered attorney general, Jeff Sessions, he would be ready to step into the job." More here. POLITICO has previously explored Pruitt's designs on the Justice Department — as well as state

or national offices.

**MAIL CALL! PROTECT THE ESA:** Reps. [Don Beyer](#), [Debbie Dingell](#) and [Raúl Grijalva](#) led a letter with 104 lawmakers to the Appropriations committee asking for "robust" funding for Endangered Species Act protections. Read it [here](#).

— **Thirty-nine senators signed onto a bipartisan letter last week** to express opposition to the Nord Stream II pipeline. The letter urges the administration "to utilize all of the tools at its disposal to prevent its construction." Read it [here](#).

## QUICK HITS

— Offshore oil and gas operators want less regulation, but surprise inspections find serious safety problems, [The New York Times](#).

— D.C. lawmaker says recent snowfall caused by 'Rothschilds controlling the climate,' [The Washington Post](#).

— EPA may be overstating claims from mine spill, [Associated Press](#).

— Why suburban New Yorkers are likely to face more power outages, [The Wall Street Journal](#).

— Atlantic Coast Pipeline gets violation notice from state over tree cutting, [The Daily Progress](#).

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

### MONDAY

8:30 a.m. — The NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology holds the Biennial Educational Partnership Program Education and Science [Forum](#), 2455 Sixth Street NW

12:00 p.m. — The Woodrow Wilson Center's China Environment Forum holds a [film screening](#) of "Plastic China," 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

2:00 p.m. — The Science Coalition [briefing](#) on "American Energy: How Research Powers Today and Tomorrow," 122 Cannon

2:00 p.m. — The Woodrow Wilson Center conference call [briefing](#) on where the U.S.-Saudi relationship

5:15 p.m. — The GWU Elliott School of International Affairs [film screening](#) on "Beyond the Brink," on California's water crisis and climate change driven water scarcity, 1957 E Street NW

6:30 p.m. — Regeneration International [discussion](#) on "Indigenous Land Rights, Regenerative Agriculture & Farm Worker Empowerment to Address Conflict,

Climate Change & Involuntary Migration," 2021 14th Street NW

**TUESDAY**

8:00 a.m. — The Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association panel on fuel efficiency standards, 529 14th Street NW

8:30 a.m. — Wilderness Society discussion on energy, environment and public lands, 529 14th Street NW

10:00 a.m. — Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on the president's fiscal 2019 budget request for the Energy Department, 366 Dirksen

10:00 a.m. — House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee hearing on "FY2019 — National Nuclear Security Administration," 2362-B Rayburn

10:15 a.m. — House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee and Environment Subcommittee hearing on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's fiscal 2019 budget, 2123 Rayburn

10:00 a.m. — Senate Environment and Public Works Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee hearing on the nomination of John Ryder to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors, 406 Dirksen

10:30 a.m. — House Natural Resources Committee hearing on fiscal 2019 budget for Indian Affairs and Insular Areas, 1324 Longworth

10:30 a.m. — House Transportation and Infrastructure Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on 2017 wildfires, 2167 Rayburn

2:00 p.m. — House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 5210 (115) and H.R. 2584 (115), 1324 Longworth

**WEDNESDAY**

8:00 a.m. — The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments holds 2018 Directed Energy Summit, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

10:00 a.m. — Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on "Oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 406 Dirksen

10:00 a.m. — House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "FY2019 — National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration," H-309

10:15 a.m. — House Natural Resources Committee markup on various bills, 1324 Longworth

- 12:00 p.m. — The WWC Environmental Change and Security Program film screening of two documentaries from the GroundTruth Project's Living Proof series, "A Climate for Conflict" and "Breadwinner," 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
- 2:00 p.m. — House Natural Resources Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee hearing on "Examining the Proposed FY 2019 Spending, Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Four Power Marketing Administrations." 1324 Longworth
- 2:00 p.m. — House Foreign Affairs Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on "Implications of a U.S.-Saudi Arabia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement for the Middle East," 2172 Rayburn
- 2:00 p.m. — House Oversight and Government Reform National Security Subcommittee hearing on bureaucratic challenges to hurricane recovery in Puerto Rico, 2154 Rayburn

#### **THURSDAY**

- 8:00 a.m. — The American Coalition for Ethanol holds 10th annual D.C. Fly-in and government affairs summit, 415 New Jersey Avenue NW
- 9:00 a.m. — House Appropriations Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "FY 2019 — Applied Energy," 2362-B Rayburn
- 9:00 a.m. — House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on "FY 2019 Budget Request for Nuclear Forces and Atomic Energy Defense Activities," 2118 Rayburn
- 9:00 a.m. — The WWC China Environment Forum discussion on "One Belt One Road, and Many Power Plants: Linking China's Domestic and Global Energy Ambitions," 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
- 10:00 a.m. — Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on challenges in the Energy Department's atomic energy defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for FY 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 216 Hart
- 10:00 a.m. — Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on multiple bills, 366 Dirksen
- 12:00 p.m. — The Women's Council on Energy and the Environment discussion "Autonomous Vehicles: The Future is Now," 600 Massachusetts Avenue NW
- 12:00 p.m. — The Peterson Institute for International Economics discussion on Norway's oil and gas reserves, 1750 Massachusetts Avenue NW

12:30 p.m. — The World Resources Institute [discussion](#) on "Winners and Losers in a Warming World — The Political Economy of Climate Action," 10 G Street NE

### **THAT'S ALL FOR ME!**

**\*\* A message from Chevron:** See how Chevron with local partners are helping DOERS get the hands-on technical training needed for jobs in the energy and manufacturing industries. Watch the video: <http://politi.co/2IsYxOc> \*\*

*To view online:*

<https://www.politicopro.com/newsletters/morning-energy/2018/03/whats-the-senate-hold-up-142048>

### **Stories from POLITICO Pro**

#### **Tillerson's ouster prolongs limbo for empty State Department jobs [Back](#)**

By Nahal Toosi | 03/17/2018 01:57 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's decision to dump Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will likely mean further delays in filling dozens of empty posts at the State Department, undermining U.S. global diplomacy at an unusually sensitive time.

Foreign governments are already unsure who is shaping American policy, whom they should contact with questions and requests, and how to handle Trump's often unpredictable, go-it-alone approach to world affairs. The U.S. president recently announced he would hold an unprecedented meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by the end of May; he's also weighing the fate of the Iran nuclear deal.

Some Trump aides expect Tillerson's named replacement, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, to scratch one key Tillerson nominee: Susan Thornton, a career diplomat who had been in line to assume the State Department's top East Asia post, dealing with China and North Korea.

The lag in filling positions is raising concern in Congress, where Pompeo is tentatively scheduled to face his own confirmation hearing on April 12.

Pompeo is expected to visit the State Department on Monday for handover talks with Tillerson, according to an internal readout of a State Department meeting obtained by POLITICO. Top officials there have been told to prepare to brief Pompeo on "hot topics" ahead of his confirmation hearing — although because Pompeo is still running the CIA, "it is unclear how much time Secretary-designate Pompeo will spend in this building prior to confirmation," the readout said.

Of 163 Senate-confirmed positions for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, 65 positions don't yet have a nominee, while many nominees have yet to be confirmed, according to congressional staffers. Among

the empty slots: the ambassador to South Korea and the assistant secretary of state who oversees the Middle East.

Trump has blamed Senate Democrats for the plethora of empty offices in the State Department and beyond. "Hundreds of good people, including very important Ambassadors and Judges, are being blocked and/or slow walked by the Democrats in the Senate. Many important positions in Government are unfilled because of this obstruction. Worst in U.S. history!" the president tweeted Wednesday.

But Democrats say Trump and his Cabinet aides are the ones at fault, especially when it comes to the diplomatic ranks. "The fact is this administration has failed to nominate critical high-level positions, leaving a void of empowered voices and gaping vacancies in embassies in some of the world's most troubled regions and in Foggy Bottom," said New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on Friday. "We cannot confirm nominees who have not been nominated."

Although the White House plays a major role in choosing nominees — and often rejected Tillerson's choices — Pompeo is expected to review current and potential names for the open jobs at State as he shapes the institution closer to his worldview, which is notably more hawkish than Tillerson's.

Many believe Thornton, the current nominee to serve as assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs, will be the first to go. She appeared before the Senate in mid-February for her confirmation hearing.

Thornton's critics say she is too soft on China. Steve Bannon, a former White House adviser who advocates a tougher approach to Beijing, publicly bragged about trying to sideline the career diplomat. Bannon was fired before that could happen, and Tillerson, who came to admire Thornton, convinced the White House to nominate her. But Tillerson's ouster has cost Thornton her champion, and Pompeo has little incentive to back her given Trump's more hardline positions on China in recent weeks.

But if Pompeo pulls Thornton's nomination, it would send a demoralizing signal to other career staffers hoping to advance at State. The White House recently rejected a handful of career diplomats that Tillerson had put forth for ambassadorships, according to a State Department official familiar with the matter. The reasoning wasn't clear.

Modern-era presidents have typically given around 70 percent of ambassador slots to the career diplomats and the rest to political hires, whose ranks often include campaign donors. According to the American Foreign Service Association, the diplomats' union, Trump's ambassador picks so far have been 61 percent political, 39 percent career.

Given that Pompeo has reportedly been preparing to replace Tillerson for months, it's

possible he already has a list of names for top State slots. And because he has a better relationship with Trump than Tillerson did, he is likely to be more successful in getting the president to sign off on his choices.

Regardless, it can take months for nominees to go through the White House's vetting procedures and then be confirmed by a Senate Republicans narrowly control, 51-49. That raises the possibility that some top positions may remain vacant into 2019.

Pompeo's own confirmation is no slam dunk. One fellow Republican, Rand Paul of Kentucky, already has said he opposes Pompeo in part because of his apparent support for "enhanced interrogation techniques," or torture.

Trump announced Tillerson's firing via a tweet on Tuesday. Tillerson's last day in the office is slated to be March 22, although his commission as secretary of state officially ends March 31, according to the internal State Department readout. Tillerson already has delegated "all authorities," as the readout put it, to the deputy secretary of state, John Sullivan.

In a farewell session with top aides, Tillerson lamented that the department had "failed to modernize its personnel practices and was being overtaken by other agencies," according to the readout. It was an admission that his efforts to "redesign" State had not achieved much yet. Tillerson said he hoped that Pompeo would keep that initiative going.

A handful of top aides to Tillerson will leave as well, including his chief of staff, Margaret Peterlin, and his deputy chief of staff, Christine Ciccone. Those two aides were widely disliked within the State Department for tightly restricting access to Tillerson, which bogged down decision-making.

But one Tillerson adviser is expected to stick around under Pompeo, at least for a few months. Brian Hook, the director of the secretary's Policy Planning Staff is arguably the second most-powerful person at State, playing a major role in crafting and negotiating policy, often to the detriment of other bureaus at the department. Hook has cultivated solid relationships with close Trump advisers, and observers expect Pompeo to retain Hook for a while for continuity.

A former George W. Bush administration official well known in Republican foreign policy circles, Hook was in Vienna on Friday meeting with foreign diplomats to discuss the Iran nuclear deal. Trump has threatened to withdraw from the deal in May unless new limits are applied to Iran's nuclear and missile programs, though foreign governments are skeptical that is possible.

There is little love lost for Tillerson at the State Department, where many employees felt sidelined and thought he was too determined to trim staff. At the same time, State workers feel Trump treated Tillerson poorly and fired him dishonorably, and worry about what Pompeo's hardline views will mean for U.S. diplomacy.



Tillerson sent out a note to State staffers Friday in which he praised their patriotism and hard work. The former ExxonMobil CEO, who had no formal diplomatic experience before taking over as secretary in February 2017, said it had been "one of the great privileges" of his life to serve alongside the State Department staffers. He made no mention of Trump or Pompeo, but he urged department employees to "embrace an orderly and smooth transition process."

"I am proud of what we have accomplished together," he wrote. "I am proud of you."

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

### **Nomination backlog to keep many picks on hold in Senate [Back](#)**

By Anthony Adragna | 03/19/2018 05:01 AM EDT

The Trump administration's constant personnel shuffling and the emphasis on approving federal judges means some nominees — including some senior EPA and Interior appointees — may be stuck in limbo waiting for confirmation votes, according to Senate Republicans.

Those Republicans blame Democrats for what they call unprecedented obstruction that's led to protracted procedural delays on non-controversial nominees and left the GOP [mulling a rules change](#) to limit debate ahead of confirmation votes. But even among some lawmakers who are upset with Democrats, there's frustration that the Senate leadership hasn't done more to help get staff in place across federal agencies.

"We can't expect the administration to do their job if they don't have the people in these positions," Senate Energy Chairman [Lisa Murkowski](#) (R-Alaska) said last week. "My observation is we're spending a lot more time moving through the judges and less on the administration folks."

Confirming Mike Pompeo as the Secretary of State and a replacement at the top of the CIA will certainly be a priority, GOP senators agreed, as is the need to "[rapidly](#)" approve federal judges.

But moving Pompeo through the nominating process will take additional time in the Senate and push back floor votes for lower level positions like assistant secretaries, ambassadors and general counsels. There are currently 144 such nominees awaiting Senate action, according to [data](#) tracked by The Washington Post and the Partnership for Public Service.

"You have to prioritize," Sen. [Shelley Moore Capito](#) (R-W.Va.) said. "Certainly something as important as Secretary of State or director of the CIA has got to move to the front of the line."

Democrats have forced Republicans to forego unanimous consent and hold 102 cloture votes so far in Congress, often on nominees that advance by extremely wide margins such as a federal judge who advanced 94-2. But that's still below the pace of the Democratic-controlled Senate during the 113th Congress that held 218 cloture in the first two years of former President Barack Obama's second term, according to chamber data.

So far this year, the Senate has confirmed 71 nominees, 54 of those by voice vote. Ten of the remaining floor votes were for judicial nominations, while the other seven were for executive branch positions. Since the start of the Trump administration, 393 civilian nominations have cleared the Senate, compared to 538 at this point of the Obama administration.

Some GOP senators contend Democrats are drawing out the process simply to deprive the Trump administration of fully-functioning agencies. That includes Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), who complained the delays were "bulls---."

"They can't have it both ways — they try to beat up the Trump administration on not getting foreign policy, ambassadors and assistant secretaries [nominated] and then when they do, they hold them," he told POLITICO. "It doesn't help the American people."

That sentiment was echoed Friday by White House Legislative Affairs director Marc Short who bashed the delays as "beyond historic."

"[Senate Minority Leader Chuck] Schumer is essentially weaponizing a Senate procedure and demanding cloture votes on our nominees that he even eventually supports," Short said. "This has not the tradition of the United States Senate to do what they're doing right now."

A spokesman for Schumer shot back that the attacks were misplaced, since the White House has been historically slow at nominating people and has been forced to withdraw a slew of their own controversial picks.

"You can't cry unprecedented Democratic obstruction while a) many Republicans publicly block President Trump's unqualified and controversial nominees, and b) hundreds of other key positions remain vacant simply because the administration has failed to actually submit nominees for said position," the spokesman said in an email.

Holds put in place by senators on several senior Interior and EPA nominees mean those positions are likely to remain vacant for a while. Those include three from Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.): Ryan Nelson to be Interior's solicitor and Susan Combs to be assistant secretary for policy, management and budget; and Steven Gardner to be director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement. Andrew Wheeler's selection to serve as EPA deputy administrator is also among those caught in the logjam.

Democrats argue many of the Trump nominees are so controversial as to be unworthy of being fast-tracked and say Republicans are complaining about the slow pace of confirmations while touting the high number of judicial confirmations. And, they say, the Trump administration's constant churn makes it difficult to attract strong candidates and get them confirmed.

"The chaos that exists in the White House makes it hard to hire people," Sen. [Tom Carper](#) (D-Del.), ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, said.

"Pretty soon the president's barber is going to have a big role in foreign policy." quipped Sen. [Ron Wyden](#) (D-Ore.).

Two members of Senate GOP leadership — Sens. [John Barrasso](#) (R-Wyo.) and [Roy Blunt](#) (R-Mo.) — said internal discussions are ongoing about whether to adopt the rules change first floated last fall to reduce the time available to debate a nomination after cloture from 30 to eight hours.

"Eventually the minority loses those protections when it abuses them," Blunt said.

And GOP lawmakers are already warning the tactics from Democrats are only making it more likely that Republicans will use them next time they're in the minority.

"Will this spark a cycle? I don't know, I hope not. But it's certainly not engendering a lot of good will on our part," Sullivan said.

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

**Proposals for biofuel credit price cap alarm corn growers [Back](#)**

By Eric Wolff | 03/16/2018 06:28 PM EDT

White House-backed negotiations to alter the biofuels program may include a trigger mechanism that could kick in to cap prices for biofuel credits — but that proposal is hitting heavy resistance from the corn industry.

Talks between refining and agricultural groups to change the Renewable Fuel Standard have made modest progress in recent days, with participants discussing seeking an EPA waiver to expand sales of 15 percent ethanol gasoline blends. That plan would also provide an incentive for those sales by attaching a multiplier to increase the number of Renewable Identification Numbers to help lower the costs for refiners.

The new discussion around a triggered price cap is an attempt to overcome opposition to refiners' proposal for a fixed two-year price cap that was discussed at a White House meeting with President Donald Trump in February. That plan also set off

alarm bells among corn growers and senators from corn-growing states, including Sen. [Chuck Grassley](#) (R-Iowa), who pressed for a new meeting with Trump to discuss their stance.

"Our biggest concern right now is that there continues to be out of the White House talk about a cap on RINs," said Jon Doggett, executive vice president for the National Corn Growers Association. "And until that's off the table and that's not going to happen, all the rest of these proposals are for naught."

Sources in the corn industry and refining sector said major ethanol producers like POET and Green Plains were open to the idea of a triggered price cap, though POET vigorously denied it had endorsed that plan.

Trump has met with industry representatives, lawmakers and members of his Cabinet to try to resolve a dispute between two of his key constituencies, the farmers in corn states like Iowa and the blue-collar workers in refineries in Pennsylvania, a state he narrowly carried in 2016. Refiners have kept the spotlight on the issue, arguing that even though EPA recently removed some of the burden on bankrupt refiner Philadelphia Energy Solutions, the costs of RINs was squeezing their business.

Ethanol producers have contended that a higher supply of RINs would drive down the prices that refiners pay for the credits, and EPA could increase the supply of RINs by granting a Clean Air Act waiver to allow year-round sales of E15 in all states. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said early last year that his lawyers are investigating that option, but he has not yet said whether it was legal.

Recent proposals to reduce the number of participants who can trade RINs — effectively preventing speculation from investment banks — have drawn support from all sides, and Pruitt told reporters last week he plans to implement such a measure.

But refiners are pressing for an immediate solution to lower RINs prices. Sources said the discussions underway are fluid, but a potential price cap could be triggered if E15 sales fall short of target volumes after a year, or if RIN prices remain too high at that time.

Another plan would use the same triggers, but to create a multiplier to increase the number of RINs attached to gallons of E11 and E15 fuel.

Refiners worried about high compliance costs say that ethanol producers appear to be softening their resistance to some kind of price control.

"Major ethanol producers have come to the conclusion that if an RVP waiver and a multiplier do not hold the line on RINs prices, then some form of cost-containing backstop is legitimate and acceptable," one refining source said.

Corn growers were angered by the apparent willingness of POET and Green Plains to accepting a triggered RIN cap.

"It is a widely known fact," Doggett said "Those are two companies out of a number of companies that produce ethanol in the country, those two companies have an opinion that is their opinion."

But POET said it remained opposed to a cap on RIN prices.

"We remain committed to what we sent over to the administration this week — and those did not include the RIN cap. We think that solves the problem," said Rob Walther, vice president for federal affairs for POET. "And more importantly, all subsequent conversations with the administration have been focused on the multiplier and have not endorsed a RIN cap."

"The biofuel and agriculture sectors, as well as our champions in the heartland and on Capitol Hill, remain adamantly opposed to any scheme that would cut, cap, or waive RINs," said Emily Skor, CEO of Growth Energy, an ethanol producers trade group.

Even the rumors the White House supports a cap on RIN prices riled up corn growers' Senate allies.

Sens. [John Thune](#) (R-S.D.), [Deb Fischer](#) (R-Neb.), [Roy Blunt](#) (R-Mo.), [Joni Ernst](#) (R-Iowa), and Grassley sent a [letter](#) to Trump asking for a meeting to make their opposition known.

"We are opposed to applying a 'waiver cap' mechanism of any kind to the RFS," they wrote. Grassley [tweeted](#) at Trump on Thursday night saying the cap "will be CATASTROPHIC to ethanol."

Other oil industry players have largely stayed in the background on the RFS battle in the White House. They remain hopeful that a legislative effort led by Sen. [John Cornyn](#) (R-Texas.) with input from Democratic Sen. [Tom Udall](#) (D-N.M.) can solve the deadlock.

"To paraphrase Winston Churchill, never have so many invested so much time for so little," said Stephen Brown, vice president for federal affairs for the refiner Andeavor. "While this chase continues when a more durable alternative, the Cornyn/Udall legislation, is actually gaining momentum among autos, ethanol producers, refiners and marketers."

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

**U.S. says Russian hackers targeted American energy grid** [Back](#)

By Tim Starks | 03/15/2018 12:00 PM EDT

The Trump administration on Thursday accused Russian government hackers of carrying

out a deliberate, ongoing operation to penetrate vital U.S. industries, including the energy grid — a major ratcheting up of tensions between the two countries over cybersecurity.

It says the hackers penetrated targeted companies to a surprising degree, including copying information that could be used to gain access to the computer systems that control power plants. It's the kind of access that experts say would have given Moscow the ability to turn off the power if it wanted to.

The alert came eight months after leaked documents revealed that federal authorities had found evidence of foreign hackers breaching computer networks in U.S. power companies, including the operator of the Wolf Creek nuclear plant in Kansas.

"Since at least March 2016, Russian government cyber actors ... targeted government entities and multiple U.S. critical infrastructure sectors, including the energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors," according to Thursday's joint alert, issued by the Homeland Security Department and the FBI.

While the reveal isn't a surprise to cyber watchers — researchers have been noting such digital espionage for years — it's rare for the U.S. government to be so blunt about a foreign adversary's cyber spying. Because the U.S. conducts its own similar online espionage campaigns around the world, intelligence officials have traditionally been loath to openly point fingers at other governments for doing the same thing.

After the alert, Energy Secretary Rick Perry warned members of a House Appropriations subcommittee Thursday that he's "not confident" the federal government has an adequate strategy in place to address the "hundreds of thousands" of cybersecurity attacks directed at the U.S. every day.

Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington state, the top Democrat on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said Thursday's alert followed a long series of unanswered warnings about the danger that hackers could trigger economically devastating blackouts.

"A year ago yesterday, I called for a Russian cyber threat assessment to our grid," Cantwell said in a statement. "I've repeatedly asked President [Donald] Trump to tackle this urgent task and have been met with deafening silence. I hope today's belated response is the first step in a robust and aggressive strategy to protect our critical infrastructure."

The alert comes on the same day the Trump administration issued new sanctions against Russia for a range of activities, including its actions in cyberspace. Taken together, the steps amount to perhaps the most direct confrontation of Russian hackers by the U.S. government yet.

Russia has been widely accused of launching increasingly dangerous attacks on power

grids around the world. Moscow's most frequent target has been Ukraine, according to researchers. In recent years, Ukraine has twice blamed its neighbor for shutting down portions of its power grid using digital weapons that hackers had not previously successfully deployed on that scale.

The alert says Russian hackers attempted to access the American grid and other industries primarily to spy and collect information. Their weapons included malware-laden Word documents — such as engineers' resumes — that appeared in legitimate-seeming emails, but which harvested login and password information from victims' computers.

The hackers used these exploits to target vendors and other companies on the periphery of their main targets, then leapfrog their way to gain access to higher-level networks and install malware.

Once inside, the hackers would move around and conduct reconnaissance, and appeared interested in industrial control systems that manage processes for critical infrastructure, the alert reads.

"The threat actors appear to have deliberately chosen the organizations they targeted, rather than pursuing them as targets of opportunity," the alert says.

It says the hackers also used other means to find their way in. In one case, they "downloaded a small photo from a publicly accessible human resources page. The image, when expanded, was a high-resolution photo that displayed control systems equipment models and status information in the background."

They also implanted malware in the websites of trade publications and other websites related to the targeted industries, the alert says.

According to Jon Wellinohoff, a former chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission who now runs his own energy policy consultancy, the hackers seemed to be gathering intelligence "that could provide them with information in the future to do something if they wanted to."

Essentially, they were setting the stage to potentially turn off the power, cyber experts said.

The details closely dovetail with research [published](#) in October by cyber firm Symantec. The government alert even confirmed that the Symantec report — which didn't attribute the cyber activity to any government — offered "additional information" about Russia's digital efforts.

The Symantec report reveals that the cyberattacks described in Thursday's alert stretch back much further than 2016. According to Symantec, the hacking group, which it dubbed Dragonfly, started around 2011, targeting western energy-sector companies, including in the U.S., Turkey and Switzerland.

Though the group was dormant through much of 2014 and 2015, it restarted its digital probing in late 2015 with a campaign that sent fake New Year's Eve party invites to energy-sector targets, Symantec said.

By 2017, the group had ramped up these malicious efforts, according to the research.

Kevin McIntyre, chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — which oversees the energy sector — said the information contained in the alerts showed the need to remain vigilant on cybersecurity.

"Frankly, some of it is a little bit scary," he told reporters on Thursday. "But we keep our eye on the ball and focus on it so that we try our best as an agency."

Perry, meanwhile, expressed misgivings about federal cybersecurity efforts.

"I'm not confident that the federal government has a broad strategy in place that is not duplicating, or is least duplicative as it can be," Perry said after House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman [Mike Simpson](#) (R-Idaho) called cybersecurity attacks "our biggest threat."

"I'm as worried about cybersecurity as I am nuclear," Simpson said. "I think we're attacking it department-wide, but I'm not sure we're attacking it government-wide."

*Eric Wolff, Cory Bennett and Anthony Adragna contributed to this report.*

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

**Nuclear officials try to assuage Russia hacking fears** [Back](#)

By Tim Starks and Anthony Adragna | 03/16/2018 04:33 PM EDT

Nuclear energy regulators said today that no operations were affected by the months-long Russian cyber campaign to hack vital U.S. industries, including numerous energy companies.

And a nuclear industry organization added that no U.S. plants reported cyberattacks during this time.

The statements come one day after the Trump administration [publicly](#) blamed Russian government hackers for launching cyber espionage attacks on a number of critical U.S. industries, including the nuclear sector. In an alert published by the Homeland Security Department and FBI, officials revealed that the hackers had infiltrated computer networks to collect intelligence that would allow them to shut down systems.



But the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said that during the campaign, "there was no adverse impact to any of the NRC-regulated safety, security or emergency preparedness functions."

"The corporate networks of some NRC licensees were affected," it added.

NRC spokespeople did not address the question of whether hackers had demonstrated the capacity to affect operations at any point.

The Nuclear Energy Institute, a major industry trade group, was more forceful on Friday, stating that "no U.S. nuclear plants have been breached by a cyberattack."

It noted that nuclear plants are required to notify regulators of digital incursions within 60 days.

"No such notification has ever transpired," the organization said.

Cyber experts frequently note that many digital attacks go unreported.

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

**McCarthy eyes omnibus to circumvent objections over raising California dam [Back](#)**

By Annie Snider | 03/15/2018 06:22 PM EDT

House Majority Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) is pushing to include language in an omnibus spending bill that would allow a major California dam project backed by the Trump administration to move forward over Gov. Jerry Brown's objections.

Congress included language as part of a bipartisan 2016 water infrastructure law that would allow the Shasta Dam to be raised to store more water, but it required the Interior Department to get a state or local government to sign onto the project before work could begin. Brown's administration opposes the \$1.3 billion project, saying it would violate state law, leading powerful agricultural interests in the state to push their Republican allies in Congress to remove that caveat.

Federal funding runs out March 23, and lawmakers are negotiating the final details of a government-wide spending bill they hope to unveil in the coming days and pass in time to avoid a government shutdown. McCarthy wants that bill to include a rider that would let Interior begin pre-construction work on the dam without a partner.

"If we've learned nothing else from the past years of catastrophic drought in our state, perhaps we now all agree that increasing storage capacity to capture water during wet years for use in dry years is absolutely critical," McCarthy said in a statement.

The biggest beneficiary of raising the dam would be Westlands Water District, whose farmers often see water shipments curtailed during dry years. David Bernhardt, deputy Interior secretary, was the powerful water district's top lobbyist before joining the Trump administration.

In January the administration requested \$20 million to begin work on the project.

Johnny Amaral, deputy general manager for Westlands and former chief of staff to Trump ally Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.), argued that raising Shasta is one of the best new water storage projects in terms of costs and benefits, and argued it could bring benefits to fisheries as well as farms.

"Westlands Water District supports efforts by the Department of the Interior and members of the California Congressional delegation to move forward on this project," Amaral said by email.

Farmers and other California water users have for years been pushing a plan to raise Shasta Dam near the Sacramento River by nearly 19 feet as a way of storing more water to irrigate Central Valley farms.

But Golden State officials say raising the dam would inundate the McCloud River and its fisheries, which are protected under the state's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

California's Natural Resources Secretary John Laird, a Brown appointee, wrote House and Senate leaders this week to register the state's opposition. He said the state "shares the Department of Interior's commitment to investing in new water storage" and asked that they instead focus on other water storage efforts where the state could join as a financial partner.

Northern California Democrats are also fighting the omnibus language. Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) argued that the push is a sweetheart deal for Bernhardt's former employer.

"There's a stench to this thing and it seems that when it comes to these decisions of what to fund, what not to fund, in all types of infrastructure, it's just all politics all the time," he said after pressing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about the Shasta plan during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing Thursday morning.

But California Sen. Dianne Feinstein has yet to weigh in. Feinstein has previously backed raising Shasta, and she was key to the 2016 drought deal that gave Shasta its current path forward — but that included the language Republicans are now looking to waive. She is also the top Democrat on the Appropriations subcommittee that funds the Bureau of Reclamation. Feinstein's office did not respond to a request for comment Thursday.

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

## **FEMA relaxes restraints on private flood insurance** [Back](#)

By Zachary Warmbrodt | 03/16/2018 05:54 PM EDT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency intends to ease restrictions on insurers seeking to offer private flood insurance — a proposal that lawmakers have been pushing as part of an overhaul of the National Flood Insurance Program.

FEMA announced the plans today in a Federal Register [notice](#) outlining changes to its arrangements with "Write Your Own" insurance companies that sell flood insurance policies on behalf of the NFIP. The change would relax "non-compete" requirements that restrict how the companies can offer their own private flood insurance policies.

In addition, FEMA is planning to reduce compensation for the Write Your Own companies to 30 percent of premiums from 30.9 percent. House and Senate lawmakers have also proposed reducing the rate, but to lower levels.

"It helps the consumer," FEMA deputy associate administrator Roy Wright said in an interview today.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The changes would take effect in October.

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

## **Japanese-American senator hits Zinke over 'flippant' response on preserving internment sites** [Back](#)

By Cristiano Lima | 03/15/2018 06:51 PM EDT

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) on Thursday called it "flippant & juvenile" for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to respond to a question about preserving internment sites with a Japanese greeting.

"The internment of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans is no laughing matter, @SecretaryZinke," tweeted Hirono, the first U.S. senator born in Japan and the first Asian-American woman elected to the chamber.

During a House Natural Resources Committee hearing earlier in the day, Zinke was pressed by Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-Hawaii), a fourth-generation Japanese-American, to commit to refunding a National Park Service [program](#) that offers grants toward the preservation of confinement camps where Japanese-Americans were held during World War II.

"Are you committed to continue to grant programs that are identified, I believe, as the Japanese American Confinement Sites grants program which were funded in 2017? Will we see them funded again in 2018?" Hanabusa asked.

"Oh, konnichiwa," Zinke replied, deploying a Japanese greeting typically used in midday.

After a brief silence, Hanabusa corrected Zinke, using the Japanese greeting for "good morning."

"I think it's still 'ohayo gozaimasu,' but that's OK," she said.

Zinke's remark later drew scrutiny from the Hawaii senator online.

"What you thought was a clever response to @RepHanabusa was flippant & juvenile," Hirono wrote on Twitter.

After the brief exchange at the hearing, Zinke said funding for the grants "probably got caught up" by larger 2018 budgetary items, and vowed to work with Hanabusa on the matter.

"I will look at it and I will work with you on it because I think it is important," Zinke told her.

Hanabusa, who said her two grandparents were subjected to internment, framed the program as a necessity during the hearing.

"I sit before you the granddaughter of two internees, both of my grandfathers were interned during World War II," Hanabusa said. "It is essential that we as a nation recognize our darkest moments so that we don't have them repeat again."

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

**Trump likely to quit Iran deal, Corker says** [Back](#)

By Louis Nelson | 03/18/2018 12:53 PM EDT

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker said Sunday that he believes President Donald Trump is likely to pull the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal in May, a step that would undo one of the major foreign policy achievements claimed by former President Barack Obama.

Corker (R-Tenn.) told CBS's "Face the Nation" that such a move by Trump could be avoided if the president's concerns, which deal largely with Iran's actions outside the specifics of the nuclear deal, are addressed as part of a multilateral framework. Such an agreement seems unlikely, Corker said.

"The Iran deal will be another issue that's coming up in May, and right now it doesn't feel like it's going to be extended. I think the president likely will move away from it, unless my — our European counterparts really come together on a framework.

And it doesn't feel to me that they are," Corker said, cautioning that circumstances could change as the May 12 deadline for a decision on the Iran deal approaches.

"You think the president's going to pull out of that Iran deal on May 12th?" CBS anchor Margaret Brennan followed up, to which Corker replied, "I do. I do."

Trump — who last week fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, his top diplomat — has long railed against the Iran nuclear deal, dating back to the 2016 presidential campaign, when he made pledges to withdraw the U.S. from it a major part of his foreign policy platform. The president has remained publicly skeptical of the deal since taking office but thus far stopped short of making good on his promise to remove pull out of it.

Accusing Iran of bad behavior that includes funding groups labeled by the U.S. as terrorist organizations, Trump announced last October that he would decertify Iran's compliance with the deal, asking Congress to pass legislation that could trigger penalties for the Islamic republic.

More recently, Trump extended the nuclear deal last January, waiving economic sanctions on Iran but declaring that he would not do so again when the next deadline hits in May unless Congress and U.S. allies in Europe dramatically strengthen the nuclear agreement.

"This is a last chance," Trump said in January. "Either fix the deal's disastrous flaws, or the United States will withdraw."

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

**Report: Trump-linked firm exploited data on 50 million Facebook users** [Back](#)

By Steven Overly | 03/17/2018 01:14 PM EDT

The data analytics firm that used voter-targeting tactics to help President Donald Trump clinch the White House improperly collected information on more than 50 million Facebook users, The New York Times alleged Saturday in a [report](#) that raises further questions about both companies' conduct during and after the 2016 election.

The Times article, and a companion piece [published](#) by the Observer in London, landed hours after Facebook announced that it had [suspended](#) the firm, Cambridge Analytica, while investigating whether it had improperly kept data on as many as 270,000 users.

But the newest reports raise the prospect that the breach was far broader than what Facebook copped to Friday night — while tying the privacy violations directly to Cambridge's work for the Trump campaign and its alleged entanglements with

Russia.

The Times quoted an anonymous Cambridge employee as saying that hundreds of gigabytes of unencrypted Facebook data still exist on Cambridge's servers, contradicting assurances given to congressional investigators. Until Friday, the newspaper added, "Facebook downplayed the scope of the leak and questioned whether any of the data still remained out of its control."

Enough is enough, top Senate Intelligence Committee Democrat Mark Warner said in a statement Saturday.

"This is more evidence that the online political advertising market is essentially the Wild West," said the Virginia senator, who has sponsored legislation to force greater transparency in online political advertising. "Whether it's allowing Russians to purchase political ads, or extensive micro-targeting based on ill-gotten user data, it's clear that, left unregulated, this market will continue to be prone to deception and lacking in transparency."

Another Democrat, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who has co-sponsored the ad transparency legislation, said Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg must testify about the situation.

"This is a major breach that must be investigated. It's clear these platforms can't police themselves," the Minnesota senator said in a statement. "They say 'trust us,' but Mark Zuckerberg needs to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee about what Facebook knew about misusing data from 50 million Americans in order to target political advertising and manipulate voters."

The Center for Democracy and Technology, a Washington advocacy group, pointed to the revelations as yet another sign that the U.S. lacks strong data privacy protections and called for individual internet users to have "greater agency and control over their personal data by default."

"Now is a time of reckoning for all tech and internet companies to truly consider their impact on democracies worldwide," CDT President and CEO Nuala O'Connor said in a statement. "While the misuse of data is not new, what we now see is how seemingly insignificant information about individuals can be used to decide what information they see and influence viewpoints in profound ways."

The Times said Cambridge Analytica — which has deep ties to Republican donor Robert Mercer and conservative firebrand Steve Bannon — used the harvested information to build a powerful political tool as political campaigns were increasingly looking to sway voters on popular digital platforms.

The company has denied the claims, which date back to 2014.

In a pair of statements, Cambridge Analytica said it had hired Global Science Research, a company run by U.K. professor Aleksandr Kogan, to conduct a "large scale research project" in the U.S. The company said it was unaware that Kogan's data

violated Facebook's terms of service and subsequently deleted it at Facebook's insistence.

"No data from GSR was used by Cambridge Analytica as part of the services it provided to the Donald Trump 2016 presidential campaign," the company said Saturday. "Cambridge Analytica only receives and uses data that has been obtained legally and fairly."

Facebook, for its part, sought to get ahead of the Times article with an announcement late Friday night that it had suspended Kogan, Cambridge Analytica and its parent company, Strategic Communication Laboratories, as well as a third firm, Eunoia Technologies, from the social network. Facebook said they had collected information from 270,000 users who voluntarily downloaded an app that Kogan created — though friends of those users with more relaxed privacy settings may have also had their data swept up.

"People knowingly provided their information, no systems were infiltrated, and no passwords or sensitive pieces of information were stolen or hacked," Paul Grewal, Facebook's vice president and deputy general counsel, said in a statement. "Nevertheless, this was a scam. Mr. Kogan misled us all.

"Protecting people's information is at the heart of everything we do, and we require the same from people who operate apps on Facebook," Grewal added. "If these reports are true, it's a serious abuse of our rules."

Nevertheless, the New York Times report will undoubtedly create headaches for both Cambridge Analytica and Facebook. Each has come under fire from Washington lawmakers for their involvement in the 2016 president election, which according to U.S. intelligence agencies was marked by interference from Russian actors looking to undermine Hillary Clinton and, eventually, boost Trump's prospects.

Cambridge has been called upon to provide both information and testimony to congressional and FBI investigators exploring the extent of the election meddling and whether affiliates of the Trump campaign colluded with Russians. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, for example, said last year that CEO Alexander Nix had contacted him in an effort to obtain hacked emails from the Clinton's campaign.

The company's ties to U.S. conservatives are many. Mercer and Bannon played key roles in helping the company establish a foothold in the U.S. politics, the Times report explains. The company first used data to target voters during the 2014 midterm elections. And before switching to assist the Trump campaign, Cambridge Analytica was tapped to work on the presidential bid of Republican Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Cambridge has also done work for a super PAC created by former U.S. diplomat John Bolton, who's been reported to be a potential candidate for White House national security adviser if Trump dismisses H.R. McMaster.

Meanwhile, Facebook has been hauled to Capitol Hill to face a battery of questions from lawmakers concerned that the network did not do enough to prevent fake news and foreign trolls from manipulating American voters throughout the election cycle. Facebook, Google and Twitter found that ads, pages and fake accounts aiming to stoke political and social discord reached more than 125 million internet users.

The Times story also raises questions about whether Cambridge and SCL may have violated U.S. law by having Canadian or European employees working on contracts for American political campaigns. Cambridge Analytica told the Times that all "personnel in strategic roles were U.S. nationals or green card holders," the newspaper said.

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

### **It Won't Be Easy for Trump to Replace Sessions With Pruitt [Back](#)**

By Victoria Bassetti and Norman Eisen | 03/16/2018 02:54 PM EDT

Having fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in cold blood this week, President Donald Trump is reportedly now turning a gimlet eye to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, with a view to replacing him with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt. That alarms even Sessions' critics, who fear Pruitt—with his proven willingness to do the president's bidding—might interfere with, or even fire, special counsel Robert Mueller.

Tempting as the prospect of Attorney General Pruitt might seem to the president, he should resist it for three reasons. This move could be challenged in the courts, setting off a barrage of litigation. Pruitt might find himself too conflicted to touch the Mueller investigation, just as Sessions was. And the firing could well worsen the president's exposure to obstruction of justice proceedings.

First, installing Pruitt as Sessions' replacement would have to meet a bevy of legal requirements—no less than two statutes, one White House order, one Department of Justice order and the Constitution. Under normal circumstances, these authorities dictate that a fired (or resigned) attorney general would be succeeded on a temporary basis by the deputy attorney general, who would serve while a permanent replacement is named by the president and then confirmed by the Senate. That means Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein would normally step up.

The president's distaste for Rosenstein, however, is well known. If Trump wants to quickly sack Sessions and sideline Rosenstein by installing Pruitt, he might look to a statute known as the Vacancies Reform Act. The VRA allows the president to ignore standard operating procedure and insert a handpicked acting head of the Department of Justice for a minimum of 210 days—more than long enough to



shut down the special counsel that so annoys the president.

But even if Trump tries this route—installing Pruitt as temporary attorney general—he could still run into problems. The VRA allows the president to name an acting attorney general were Sessions to "die[], resign[], or ... otherwise [be] unable to perform the functions and duties of the office." Trump could pick anyone who has already been confirmed by the Senate to any job in the executive branch—from Pruitt to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to the undersecretary for farm and foreign agricultural services—and make him or her the acting attorney general. But nowhere among the triggering events allowing such an appointment does the act expressly list firings. Several legal [commentators](#) have argued that it cannot be used by the president, as law professor Steve Vladeck put it, "[to hand-pick](#) a short-term (and, potentially, un-re-confirmable) successor." That would make a mockery of the Senate's constitutional "advise and consent" role.

Not everyone agrees. In 1999, the DOJ's own Office of Legal Counsel said in an [opinion](#) that it thought the law *can* be used to replace fired appointees. The OLC can be notoriously protective of the president; it is the same office that last year reversed decades of guidance to say that antinepotism law did not bar the hiring of Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump. The courts sometimes reject OLC's views; this particular one has not been tested before a judge. No one knows how that would come out.

That's where the VRA gets even riskier for Trump. It has a kicker: Any action taken by someone improperly installed in office "shall have no force or effect." And anyone affected by a decision made by an illegitimate attorney general has standing to sue. Given the success plaintiffs have had in blocking so many Trump policies from the first Muslim ban forward, it does not take much imagination to envision a tidal wave of lawsuits hitting almost every move taken by Pruitt if he is appointed under the VRA after a Sessions firing. Even Mueller could go to court if he were terminated or interfered with—and if there is one thing he has demonstrated, it is that he is not afraid to bring cases.

Second, Trump's unleashing this tsunami of litigation might be for naught. There is a reasonable case that even if Pruitt were validly appointed, he, like Sessions, would have to recuse himself from the Russia investigation. All DOJ lawyers are bound by regulation to step aside from criminal investigations if they have a "political relationship" with someone who has a substantial interest in that investigation.

Pruitt's political relationship with the president is deep and close. He has acted as the president's political accomplice for more than a year now. It would lead any decent lawyer to recuse himself from the Mueller probe. Just this January, Pruitt made his political allegiance to the president plain: "After meeting him, and now having the honor of working for him, it is abundantly clear that President Trump is the most consequential leader of our time," Pruitt [said](#). "No one has done more to advance the rule of law than President Trump. The president has liberated our

country from the political class and given America back to the people."

Of course, Pruitt has demonstrated that he has little concern about conflicts of interest or their appearance. He is already under fire for a series of ethical blunders at the EPA. Nevertheless, as they did with Sessions, the ethicists at the DOJ might insist.

Some might contend this argument goes too far. Wouldn't *any* interim attorney general the president appointed be conflicted out of overseeing Mueller? Of course not. We would not object if the president had reached out to someone independent and of stature who had not sworn the kind of loyalty oath Trump prefers. But that is not Pruitt.

Finally, there is the obstruction question. Mueller is already reportedly looking at the president's previous efforts to remove Sessions as part of a possible obstruction of justice case. A Sessions firing with corrupt intent to frustrate the Russia investigation would be another tile in the mosaic of misconduct that began with demanding loyalty from former FBI Director James Comey (the same loyalty Pruitt has so abundantly evinced) and culminated in Comey's firing. Richard Nixon's Saturday night firing frenzy did not ultimately save him, and Trump could well be hastening that same fate for himself.

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

**EPA chief Pruitt is said to be eyeing attorney general job** [Back](#)

By Andrew Restuccia | 01/05/2018 12:40 PM EDT

Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, has told friends and associates that he's interested in becoming attorney general, according to three people familiar with the internal discussions.

With rumors swirling that Jeff Sessions could depart the administration and two members of the House Freedom Caucus calling on the former Alabama senator to resign, Pruitt is quietly positioning himself as a possible candidate for the job.

"Pruitt is very interested," a person close to him said. "He has expressed that on a number of occasions."

It's unclear whether Pruitt would be on the shortlist for the position, but people close to the president said Trump has grown to like him. Pruitt has emerged as the face of Trump's deregulatory agenda, taking steps to overturn former President Barack Obama's climate change regulations. He was also a leading advocate for pulling out of the Paris agreement on climate change.

Pruitt has developed a reputation in Washington as one of the most ambitious members

of Trump's Cabinet, and people close to him have long suspected that he harbors bigger aspirations in politics, perhaps as governor or senator. Two people close to him also said he has toyed with the possibility of running for president someday.

The EPA denied that Pruitt is eyeing the attorney general position.

"No, this is not true," agency spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in a statement. "From creating regulatory certainty to cleaning up toxic superfund sites, Administrator Pruitt is solely focused on implementing President Trump's agenda to protect the environment."

Pruitt's allies stressed that he is happy at the EPA and, in the words of one person who has talked to him, "feels he's doing nation-changing work."

Before joining the Trump administration in February, Pruitt served as Oklahoma's attorney general, and he was a state senator before that.

A prominent Washington attorney advising one member of the administration said choosing Pruitt to replace Sessions would make sense because, as a member of the Cabinet who has already been confirmed by the Senate, Pruitt could serve in an acting capacity until he is formally nominated.

But a Pruitt nomination for attorney general would face fierce resistance from Democrats, who have criticized his tenure at the EPA, arguing that he is too closely tied to the oil industry and has weakened crucial environmental protections.

Sessions' relationship with Trump has ebbed and flowed in recent months. It reached a low point over the summer, when Trump called out Sessions on Twitter, publicly wondering why the attorney general wasn't investigating Hillary Clinton — and people close to the president said his relationship with Sessions has never fully recovered.

The president has also complained about Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigation.

"Sessions should have never recused himself, and if he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me before he took the job and I would have picked somebody else," Trump said in a July interview with The New York Times.

The Times published [an article](#) on Thursday that said a top White House lawyer tried to persuade Sessions not to recuse himself. The Times also reported that a Sessions aide asked a congressional staffer whether he had damaging information about the director of the FBI at the time, James Comey.

Trump fired Comey in May, a move that is under scrutiny by special counsel Robert Mueller as he investigates whether the president obstructed justice.

It's unclear how the Times article will influence Sessions' status in the White House. A White House spokeswoman and several senior administration officials did not respond to requests for comment on the issue.

In an [op-ed](#) published on Thursday, Republican Reps. Mark Meadows and Jim Jordan, the chairman and former chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, appeared to channel Trump's frustrations. The lawmakers called on Sessions to step down, railing against intelligence leaks to the press.

"Attorney General Jeff Sessions has recused himself from the Russia investigation, but it would appear he has no control at all of the premier law enforcement agency in the world," the lawmakers wrote. "It is time for Sessions to start managing in a spirit of transparency to bring all of this improper behavior to light and stop further violations.

"If Sessions can't address this issue immediately, then we have one final question needing an answer: When is it time for a new attorney general? Sadly, it seems the answer is now."

*Eliana Johnson contributed to this report.*

*To view online [click here](#).*

[Back](#)

**Is Scott Pruitt on the campaign trail?** [Back](#)

By Emily Holden | 08/18/2017 05:02 AM EDT

Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt has logged thousands of miles this summer touting his plans to rewrite the Obama administration's environmental regulations — and fueling speculation that he's laying the groundwork for a future political campaign.

The former Oklahoma attorney general — who made a name for himself by launching more than a dozen lawsuits against the Obama administration — has visited 10 states in a few short weeks, hitting local media outlets along the way. His strategy, Beltway operatives say, more resembles a candidate seeking political support than an EPA administrator pressing for regulatory changes.

One conservative talk radio host in Iowa even joked about Pruitt's August trip to the state. "If you're writing a book, you come to Iowa, or you must be running for the presidency," WHO-AM's Simon Conway told Pruitt.

The trips, which have taken Pruitt to 25 mostly Republican-led states, are ostensibly to highlight his efforts to loosen Obama-era water regulations. But he's also spending time with GOP leaders and influential industries and packing in as many media hits as possible, laying out well-rehearsed talking points to bash former

President Barack Obama's EPA.

Pruitt has declined to comment on long-running speculation among both Democrats and Republicans that he intends to run for the Senate seat held by Oklahoma Republican Jim Inhofe, an 82-year-old lawmaker whose fifth term ends in 2020. But the EPA chief's current travels could help him build the support he needs for such a race, said Drew Edmondson, a Democrat who served as Oklahoma attorney general prior to Pruitt's election in 2010.

"A Senate race would fundraise in a lot of places besides Oklahoma," said Edmondson, who is running for governor in 2018. "He's doing what he needs to do to keep the oil companies and gas companies liking him, so he has a source of funding should he decide to run."

Pruitt, 49, has done an effective job of publicly elevating his "thankless" Cabinet post, "which would lend itself to assume he has higher political aspirations," said one GOP strategist.

"Whatever he may claim to be, he is a politician with campaign experience," the source said, noting that Pruitt could jump to governor or senator since he's relatively young and EPA probably won't be "his career culmination goal."

Edmondson said political observers in Oklahoma had expected Pruitt to run in 2018 for the House seat that could be vacated by Republican Rep. [Jim Bridenstine](#), "as a holding place until a Senate seat came open." But insiders say he opted against that possibility before becoming EPA chief.

EPA declined to comment on Pruitt's future but defended his trips, adding that he's received more than two dozen invitations from elected officials and has plans to visit Montana, Kentucky and other states.

"Unlike the previous administration which imposed its regulatory regime from Washington, Administrator Pruitt is taking the conversations directly to the states," said EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox. He noted that Pruitt's stop in Iowa included a discussion about water regulations, while in Indiana he highlighted a Superfund site and in Minnesota he had been invited by Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton.

Pruitt served in the Oklahoma Senate for eight years before becoming the state's attorney general, where he helped build a political network through the Republican Attorneys General Association. During his time chairing the group, it raised at least \$2.2 million from energy companies, according to a POLITICO analysis, including from Koch Industries, ExxonMobil, Chevron, Murray Energy, Cloud Peak Energy, Xcel Energy, DTE Energy, Southern Co., SolarCity and trade groups representing the coal, utility and nuclear industries.

If Pruitt does seek elected office, he could be the first EPA chief to make that jump. But former Republican-appointed agency chiefs say that if he is focusing on a future

campaign, environmental protection and public health will suffer.

"If you think about this as a stepping stone to some other job ... you can't do it," said Bill Ruckelshaus, who served as EPA's first administrator under President Richard Nixon and later headed the agency under Ronald Reagan.

Running the agency well means asking businesses to spend money on things that reduce their profits but that are important, Ruckelshaus said, which is "not a way to make friends."

"He clearly has not bought into the mission of EPA. It's fairly simple: Protect public health and reduce pollution that impacts the environment," he said. "He is more interested in reducing the regulatory impact."

Previous EPA leaders have frequently made trips to meet state regulators or visit the agency's regional offices, but Pruitt's visits so far skipped those or conducted them at arm's length, with staff sometimes unaware he was in the area.

EPA noted that Pruitt was joined by some regional staff members while visiting Indiana, Missouri, Texas and Colorado. While he didn't go to regional offices when traveling, he "has met with every acting regional administrator, and has attended senior staff meetings where individuals from every regional office are represented," the agency official said, adding that Pruitt has also met with top health and environmental groups.

Pruitt's travel seems to have a different emphasis than that of former administrators, said former George W. Bush EPA chief Christine Todd Whitman, since he's spending more time on television and away from headquarters.

"You've got plenty on your plate. You really don't have a lot of time to go and do the kinds of stuff he's doing," said Whitman, a former New Jersey governor. Her most prominent media appearances as EPA administrator came after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, during a series of anthrax attacks and when the Columbia space shuttle disintegrated, she said.

Pruitt has been in local news more than two dozen times as he traveled to eight states carried by President Donald Trump and only two — Colorado and Minnesota — led by Democrats. In Colorado, he toured the site of the Gold King Mine spill, where EPA employees and contractors accidentally released toxic waste water into a river in 2015. In Minnesota, he met with Dayton, the Democratic governor who told reporters he didn't want to be "micromanaged" by a regional EPA office in Chicago.

None of Pruitt's predecessors went on to hold elected office after running EPA. Most have gone to academia, environmental think tanks and lobbying firms, company boards or other federal government roles. And most arrived at EPA with either state environmental agency experience or science backgrounds. A few came from state legislatures, and only Whitman and Mike Leavitt, of Utah, had served as a

governors.

Washington observers widely expect Pruitt to pursue a Senate seat, although there's no sign that Inhofe, a legend in Oklahoma politics, will depart. Inhofe's office pointed to a 2016 interview in which the senator said he had no plans to retire in 2020.

The Oklahoma governor's race in 2018 is already a crowded field. Pruitt could be looking to another federal post, like attorney general, or even a run on a presidential ticket, according to some. All eyes in Oklahoma are on the 2018 elections, where Republicans are vying for multiple statewide seats. Some Oklahoma political experts say Pruitt may be biding his time.

"I can tell you that I have not heard anybody in Oklahoma talk about a Senate run for Scott Pruitt," said Oklahoma GOP political strategist Pat McFerron. He said he's in touch with Pruitt's former chief of staff and campaign manager — who haven't divulged any impending political plans.

"I think it is just his style," McFerron said. "Maybe he wants to keep doors open."

Still, McFerron added that if Inhofe decides not to run for reelection, "there's no doubt Scott Pruitt's name would be near the top of that list."

Pruitt has stacked EPA with people connected to Inhofe, who has praised the EPA chief. Chief of staff Ryan Jackson, deputy chief of staff Byron Brown and policy advisers Mandy Gunasekara and Brittany Bolen all worked under Inhofe, as did Susan Bodine, Trump's nominee for EPA enforcement chief, who is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Pruitt has also maintained key personnel with links back to Oklahoma, including three staffers from his AG office and a former campaign aide. He hired law school friend and colleague Ken Wagner as a senior adviser and former SpiritBank executive Albert "Kell" Kelly, who had no prior experience in environmental issues, to lead his Superfund task force.

Hiring staff with campaign experience is not uncommon, but Pruitt's inner circle is dominated by them. Career employees say he is not consulting them on major decisions, relying on his Oklahoma-rooted squad instead.

Still, Andrew Miller, a former Virginia attorney general and energy lobbyist who encouraged Pruitt to be the Republican voice against Obama's environmental regulations, said he would be "astounded" if Pruitt did run for elected office any time soon.

"This is just inside-the-Beltway gossip," Miller said. "I see him continuing at EPA as long as he wants to and certainly for the next four years."

On top of the dozens of local media appearances during his tour, Pruitt is frequently on

cable news networks, especially Fox News, and his aggressive political style stands out among Trump's other Cabinet secretaries who are working to unravel Obama policies.

He said in his Iowa radio interview that his state tour is meant to send the message that "EPA is not intended to be an adversary," and that he wants to empower the states to regulate themselves. But Ruckelshaus said EPA was created because states needed backup.

"Industries would threaten to leave the state if you pushed them too hard on an environmental regulation," he said.

Pruitt often uses the media exposure to criticize his own agency for its work under the previous administration.

"The last administration said: 'We're going to use regulatory power to say that certain sectors of our economy were wrong. War on coal. War on natural gas. War on fossil fuels.' Where is that in the statute?" he told Conway. "Where is it that the EPA has authority to declare war in that regard?"

He mentions Obama by name in almost every interview, often blasting the ex-president's climate policies and saying EPA has overstepped its jurisdiction and the Constitution.

Contrary to most scientists, Pruitt says climate change is not an "existential threat" that will "impact our existence as a nation and as humankind."

"An existential threat is Iran. An existential threat is North Korea," he said in the same interview.

In the run-up to Trump's decision to leave the Paris climate agreement, Pruitt appeared often on TV to lobby for the U.S. to exit the deal. He's planning an official program to debate mainstream climate science, which he has suggested could be televised. That would launch him even further into the national spotlight.

Pruitt has also come under fire for spending lots of time at home in Oklahoma, which he defended as necessary for EPA business.

*Alex Guillén contributed to this report.*

To view online [click here](#).

[Back](#)

Was this Pro content helpful? Tell us what you think in one click.



Yes, very

Somewhat

Neutral

Not really

Not at all

**You received this POLITICO Pro content because your customized settings include: Morning Energy. To change your alert settings, please go to <https://www.politicopro.com/settings>**

---

**This email was sent to [Laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov) by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA**

---

**To:** Zinke Ryan[[cdr06@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cdr06@ios.doi.gov)]  
**From:** Caroline Boulton  
**Sent:** 2018-03-20T08:38:46-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 20, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-20T08:38:56-04:00

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 20, 2018 at 4:59:17 AM CDT  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018 6:00 AM EDT**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Associated Press: Zinke Tells Tribal Leaders In Arizona He'll Fight Opioids.
- Associated Press: Democratic Activist Charged With Assaulting Zinke Staffer.
- Huffington Post: Tribes Come Together For Fight To Bring Back Protections For Bears Ears National Monument.
- Reuters: U.S. Top Court Will Not Hear Challenge To Federal Agency Power.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: Judge Hears Final Arguments In Badger-Two Medicine Case.
- Federal Computer Week: Modernizing With The Citizen In Mind.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- There's Never Been A Native American Congresswoman. That Could Change In 2018.
- BIA Flubbed Tribal Wind Farm Review, Enviros Tell 9th Circ.
- Pamunkey Tribe Considering \$700 Million Casino In Virginia.
- Gun Lake Tribe Seeks To Place 130 Acres Of Land In Hopkins Township In Trust.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Sunnyside (WA) Daily Sun-News: BLM Approves 30 Advisory Committee Charters.
- Farmington (NM) Daily Times: BLM's Onshore Drilling Permit Process May Be Getting A Boost.
- Mohave Valley (AZ) Daily News: Take Leave No Trace Training Saturday.

- St. George (UT) Spectrum: BLM Could Lend Public Lands To Landfill, New Park In So.

- Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus: Conservationists Team Up To Fight Eddy County's Invasive Plant Species.

#### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Back-Door Ban: States Fight Trump Drill Plan With Local Bans.

#### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- Water Wars: Democrats Block GOP Bid To Speed Shasta Dam Enlargement.

- Worsening Dry Spell Won't Tip Lake Mead Into Shortage.

#### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- ABC News: Congressional Lawmakers Ask For More Money To Protect Endangered Species.

- Platts: Interior Department Policy On Bird Treaty Begins, Adding Flexibility To Tree-Cutting Windows.

#### **National Park Service**

- Indianapolis Star: House Votes To Give National Recognition To Indy Park Where Robert Kennedy Gave Famous MLK Speech.

- E&E Publishing: At Hot Springs, Buy A Beer, Fix A Park.

- Lake Powell (AZ) Chronicle: Area Federal Management Agencies Explore Additional Leave No Trace Initiatives.

- St. George (UT) News: Do You Have Thoughts On Visitor Services At Glen Canyon? Here's How You Can Make Your Voice Heard.

- Associated Press: Yellowstone Bison Slaughter Protester Pleads Guilty.

- Associated Press: Areas Of Prince William Forrest Park Will Open.

- San Antonio Express-News: Most Of Downtown Now In Federal Historic District.

- Deseret (UT) News: Capitol Reef National Park Gets New Superintendent.

- WITF-TV Harrisburg (PA): New Interim Leader Assigned To Gettysburg National Military Park.

#### **Insular And International Affairs**

- New US, CNMI Flags Raised At Kagman Center.

#### **US Geological Survey**

- Associated Press: 3.0-Magnitude Earthquake Rattles Parts Of Central Oklahoma.

- Additional Reading.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- All Hail Ryan Zinke, Our Imperial Viceroy.

- Veteran Questions Zinke's "Attack On The Antiquities Act".

- Commentary: Will The Future Of Southeast Utah Be As A National Monument Or An Oil Rig?

- Editorial: Drones Offer A New Tool To Firefighters.

- Additional Reading.

#### **Top National News**

- Washington Post: Trump Unveils Strategy To Fight Opioid Crisis Including Border Security, Death Penalty For Traffickers.

- Washington Post: Trump To Unveil \$60 Billion Tariff Package Against China.
- Washington Post: Bipartisan Negotiations Continue Over \$1.3 Trillion Spending Bill.
- The Hill: Ahead Of Friday Deadline, White House And Democrats Seek To Break DACA Deadlock.
- Associated Press: US, South Korea, Japan Discuss North Korea Denuclearization.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "America's Role In Yemen's Agony Can End On Capitol Hill."
  - "Facebook Leaves Its Users' Privacy Vulnerable."
  - "The Wrong People Are Criticizing Donald Trump."
  - "Investigate Killings In The Philippines."
- Washington Post.
  - "Trump's Attacks On Law Enforcement Are Escalating. Here's How Republicans Could Protect Mueller."
  - "Putin's Next Term Could Be Even More Dangerous."
  - "Virginia's Medicaid Impasse, Courtesy Of The GOP."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Life Support For Obamacare."
  - "Facebook Joins The Club."
  - "The Senate's Iran Helpers."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

### **DOI In The News**

---

#### **Zinke Tells Tribal Leaders In Arizona He'll Fight Opioids.**

The [AP](#) (3/19, Snow) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told tribal leaders in Arizona on Monday that law enforcement officers from the Bureau of Land Management "will work with them to fight distribution of opioid drugs in Indian country." After meeting, Zinke said, "Native Americans in particular have seen a steady increase in overdose deaths, more than any other group. So it's time not to talk, but to do."

[KTAR-FM](#) Glendale, AZ (3/19) reports that Zinke "said federal officials would respect the sovereignty of tribal lands and coordinate with native leaders to determine 'the threshold for prosecution' of drug dealers arrested on Indian lands." He said, "I want to say 'in coordination' because it's important that we act as one, because going nation to nation, sovereignty should mean something."

[KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (3/20, Jenkins) reports that "Zinke said he was seeking input from tribal leaders as well as state attorneys general because

one policy would not work for all 573 Indian tribes across the country." He said, "Each nation has a unique set of cultures, unique way to address the issues, but certainly drugs are an issue in Arizona."

Also reporting is Cronkite News (3/19, Magtibay). Local TV coverage was provided by KPNX-TV Phoenix (3/19), KSAZ-TV Phoenix (3/19), KTVK-TV Phoenix (3/19), and KVOA-TV Tucson, AZ (3/19).

### **Democratic Activist Charged With Assaulting Zinke Staffer.**

The AP (3/19) reports that "an operative for a political committee that supports Democrats has been charged with assault following a confrontation with a staffer for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke outside a congressional hearing." Wilfred M. Stark was charged with "simple assault following a confrontation with Heather Swift, a spokeswoman for Zinke." Stark works for American Bridge 21st Century, a group that supports Democratic candidates.

The Daily Caller (3/19, Johnson) reports that Swift said, "Since joining the Trump Administration I've received harassing and threatening tweets, emails, phone calls, and letters (to include death threats) but being physically targeted and assaulted brings it to another level. This violent action only strengthens my desire to serve my president and my country." Interior communications director Laura Rigas "says she is 'extremely irate' that a female member of the Department of the Interior 'was physically assaulted today by a Democrat staffer from the PAC American Bridge.'"

Additional coverage was provided by KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (3/19, Dennison).

### **Tribes Come Together For Fight To Bring Back Protections For Bears Ears National Monument.**

The Huffington Post (3/19, D'angelo) reports that "members of the Native American tribes that once came together to petition for the creation of Bears Ears National Monument gathered near the site Sunday to share stories about their connections to the sprawling landscape that the Trump administration recently stripped of certain federal protections." Members of the Navajo Nation, Hopi, Zuni and Ute Mountain Ute tribes "made it clear at the gathering that they are focused on ensuring the area is given the protections they believe it deserves: nothing less than the 1.35 million acres set aside by President Barack Obama in 2016." Malcolm Lehi, a member of the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, "said energy is building in indigenous communities," and was encouraged by what he sees as "a really strong movement."

### **U.S. Top Court Will Not Hear Challenge To Federal Agency Power.**

Reuters (3/19, Chung) reports the Supreme Court on Monday "declined to consider rolling back the wide latitude federal agencies are given to interpret their own regulations in a case that could have bolstered President Donald Trump's push toward deregulation and curbing agency

power." The court rejected an appeal by Garco Construction Inc. of a lower court ruling that "deferred to the interpretation of officials at Malmstrom Air Force Base...of its contractor policy." The Spokane, Washington-based company, "which had a contract to building housing at the base, objected after officials refused to admit workers with criminal records who a subcontractor had hired for the job."

### **Judge Hears Final Arguments In Badger-Two Medicine Case.**

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/19, Tristan Scott /) reports a federal court held a hearing on March 14 on opposing motions for summary judgment in the case centering on the Interior Department's 2016 decision "to cancel oil and gas leases in the 130,000-acre Badger-Two Medicine area." U.S. District Judge Richard Leon "heard attorneys debate the lawfulness of the Interior Department's lease-cancellation decision." Lawyers "on both sides say that a decision in the case is still months away."

### **Modernizing With The Citizen In Mind.**

[Federal Computer Week](#) (3/19) reports that it "gathered a group of federal leaders on Feb. 28 to discuss whether and how agencies are making progress on citizen engagement – particularly as they build their business cases for long-overdue IT modernization projects." Participants "said the key to providing better services is often not technology but people." All participants "agreed that improving the way they provide services is absolutely essential." Among those participating was the Interior Department's Larry Gillick.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **There's Never Been A Native American Congresswoman. That Could Change In 2018.**

The [New York Times](#) (3/19, Turkewitz) reports that activist Deb Haaland (D), who is mounting a 2018 bid to succeed Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM), is "among a historic number of Native American women running for elective office. None has ever served in Congress, but that could change this year if Ms. Haaland wins." In all, the Times says there are "at least four indigenous women running" for Congress, "three more are bidding for governors' offices and another 31 are campaigning for seats in state legislatures – from both sides of the aisle." The Times says the numbers "far outstrip past election cycles, longtime observers of native politics say," and they are driven in part by "a decades-long shift in which native communities...are moving into mainstream politics."

### **BIA Flubbed Tribal Wind Farm Review, Enviro Tell 9th Circ.**

[Law360](#) (3/19, Phillis) reports that "a conservation group said Friday that the Bureau of Indian affairs ignored the input of another federal agency and neglected important information when it approved a lease between a

wind farm developer and a California tribe, asking the Ninth Circuit to overturn a lower court decision allowing the lease." Protect Our Communities Foundation and two environmental advocates claimed "the BIA didn't properly address risks the wind farm posed to nearby protected golden eagles."

### **Pamunkey Tribe Considering \$700 Million Casino In Virginia.**

The AP (3/19) reports that the Pamunkey Indian Tribe is "considering whether to build a \$700 million resort and casino in Virginia." The tribe is "looking at potential sites for the project but has no definitive plans." Virginia currently has no casinos.

### **Gun Lake Tribe Seeks To Place 130 Acres Of Land In Hopkins Township In Trust.**

MLive (MI) (3/19, Turko-Ebright) reports that the Gun Lake Tribe has "filed an application to have 130 acres of land placed in trust." The parcel, known as the Nowak property, "sits near other properties already in trust, including the Jijak camp, Gun Lake Casino, Gun Lake Tribe government campus and Bradley Indian Mission properties."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **BLM Approves 30 Advisory Committee Charters.**

The Sunnyside (WA) Daily Sun-News (3/19) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "renewed charters for 21 of 37 Resource Advisory Councils." BLM Deputy Director Brian Steed said, "Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke is committed to restoring trust in the Department's decision-making and that begins with institutionalizing state and local input and ongoing collaboration especially in communities surrounding public lands. The BLM's 37 advisory councils are essential to the Secretary's collaborative approach to public land management at the local level."

### **BLM's Onshore Drilling Permit Process May Be Getting A Boost.**

The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (3/19, Moses) reports that the Bureau of Land Management's 2018 budget documents "call for more cash to go into streamlining the permit process." The BLM "cites improvements in its automated processes and work with applicants to increase the quality of submitted applications as reasons things will improve." The BLM's Budget Justifications and Performance Information Fiscal Year 2018 document states, "Within the Oil & Gas Management program, the Bureau requests an increase of \$16 million to help ensure BLM has sufficient administrative and staff capacity to quickly process Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs) and Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in leasing, and to help alleviate administrative burdens in processing rights-of way (ROWS) requests for critical infrastructure needs in support of increased energy development."

### **Take Leave No Trace Training Saturday.**

The Mohave Valley (AZ) Daily News (3/19, Richards) reports that "strategies for visiting America's great outdoors without spoiling the experience for the next family to do the same will be hashed over Saturday, March 24, when the Needles Field Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management hosts presentations on the long-running Leave No Trace campaign." Ramona Daniels, outdoor recreation planner and wilderness coordinator at the BLM, "explained the program, sponsored by Subaru, features traveling trainers that will discuss such items as how to observe wildlife without causing harm to critters or habitat; how to decrease the impact camping on the environment; and different styles of campfires."

### **BLM Could Lend Public Lands To Landfill, New Park In So.**

Utah. The St. George (UT) Spectrum (3/19, DeMille) reports that "the federal government could hand over 55 acres of public land to help expand a landfill under a proposal under consideration at the Bureau of Land Management." The proposal, "which would involve a parcel of land adjacent to the existing landfill, could provide an extra 25 years of life to the facility, according to an estimate from the agency and the Washington County Solid Waste District." Ahmed Mohsen, district manager of the BLM Color Country District, said, "This proposal is an effort by the BLM at the request of Washington County to help identify ways to support the local community. This is a proposal that affects balance and multiple use."

### **Conservationists Team Up To Fight Eddy County's Invasive Plant Species.**

The Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus (3/19, Hedden) reports that the Bureau of Land Management, "partnering with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD), is working throughout southeast New Mexico to eradicate the problematic plant species, and reseed the land with native grasses." The article notes that "in the last 13 years, records show more than \$69.7 million was spent by the BLM, on its Restore New Mexico project intended to maintain the natural health of the area." The project "restored about 3.3 million acres across the state since it began in 2005."

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **Back-Door Ban: States Fight Trump Drill Plan With Local Bans.**

The AP (3/19, Parry) reports that in response to President Trump's offshore drilling, some states are introducing bills that would make it difficult or impossible to bring oil or gas ashore in their areas by blocking oil and natural gas infrastructure in the three miles of ocean closest to shore that is under state jurisdiction. New Jersey state Sen. Jeff Van Drew (D) called the tactic a "back-door, ingenious way to block this," explaining, "Even if we don't succeed in banning it outright, we can still make it a lot more expensive to do it in this area." Meanwhile, Andy Radford, senior policy advisor for the American Petroleum Institute, "said states ought welcome offshore drilling for the revenue it can produce for them," noting



that offshore energy production in the Atlantic Ocean could support 265,000 jobs and generate \$22 billion a year within 20 years. "Local communities and workers benefit from energy exploration and production, in addition to these investments generating significant state revenues to fund schools, hospitals and other public services," Radford said.

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Water Wars: Democrats Block GOP Bid To Speed Shasta Dam Enlargement.**

McClatchy (3/19, Cadei, Kasler) reports that "Democrats in Congress have stalled an attempt to jump start an expansion of Shasta Dam, California's largest reservoir and a major water source for the Central Valley." Their opposition "blocked a Republican gambit to allow the \$1.3 billion project to move forward without full up-front funding and despite objections from Gov. Jerry Brown's administration." Democrats also "pressed to include language in the House spending bill that would ensure the federal Bureau of Reclamation follows all state and federal laws when it comes to the dam."

### **Worsening Dry Spell Won't Tip Lake Mead Into Shortage.**

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/19, Brean) reports that "an already dry winter for the Colorado River has gotten worse in recent weeks, but it won't be enough to send Lake Mead to a record low – at least not right away." According to the article, "despite worsening conditions in the mountains that feed the Colorado, forecasters still expect the reservoir east of Las Vegas to contain just enough water by the end of the year to avoid a first-ever federal shortage declaration." Forecasters say "this winter will likely go down as the sixth-driest on record for the river system that supplies 90 percent of the Las Vegas Valley's drinking water."

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

### **Congressional Lawmakers Ask For More Money To Protect Endangered Species.**

ABC News (3/19, Ebbs) reports that "more than 100 members of Congress are asking for more funding to protect endangered species, in a letter sent to the leaders on the House Appropriations Committee last week." Democratic Reps. Don Beyer, Debbie Dingell, and Raul Grijalva "organized the letter which was co-signed by 103 Democratic Members of Congress and one Republican." In the letter, they "ask the leaders of the House Appropriations Committee to provide funding for Endangered Species Act programs in the budget for the 2019 fiscal year." The article notes that the budget proposal for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "includes a \$9.5 million cut to money available for listing new species as endangered, which is almost half the funding that program received in the 2017 fiscal year."

### **Interior Department Policy On Bird Treaty Begins, Adding Flexibility To Tree-Cutting Windows.**

Platts (3/19, Weber, Brooks) reports that "a new Interior Department policy easing migratory bird regulations is beginning to filter down to interstate natural gas pipeline projects, whose schedules can be affected by seasonal tree-clearing restrictions." According to the article, "the policy shift at Interior, depending on how it is applied, could have broad implications for pipeline developers who often warn their schedules would face delays if they do not meet early spring deadlines for cutting trees before nesting seasons begin."

### **National Park Service**

---

### **House Votes To Give National Recognition To Indy Park Where Robert Kennedy Gave Famous MLK Speech.**

The Indianapolis Star (3/19, Groppe) reports that "the U.S. House voted Monday to recognize the national significance of the Indianapolis site where Robert F. Kennedy urged a nonviolent response to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr." The House, on a vote of 391 to 0, "approved legislation designating the Landmark for Peace Memorial in Martin Luther King Park a National Commemorative Site." The legislation "would also add the memorial to the new national network of sites and programs connected to the African American Civil Rights Movement." The bill also directs the National Park Service to study the possibility of declaring it a National Historic Site

### **At Hot Springs, Buy A Beer, Fix A Park.**

E&E Publishing (3/19, Hotakainen) reports that buying a beer at the Superior Bathhouse Brewery in Hot Springs National Park "could help lower the maintenance backlog facing the nation's parks." The brewery "pays \$20,000 a year in rent, but park Superintendent Josie Fernandez says there's an added bonus: The cost of repairs gets pushed off to the tenant." She said, "The moment that we sign a lease, all of the deferred maintenance just disappears. Not only have I leased the property, but now I look like a genius because my numbers are down."

### **Area Federal Management Agencies Explore Additional Leave No Trace Initiatives.**

The Lake Powell (AZ) Chronicle (3/19, Law) reports that "rangers, land managers, and supervisors from the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management gathered in Escalante, Utah last week where they received training in ways to better implement and teach Leave No Trace (LNT) principles to the numerous tourists who visit the area's many recreational destinations." The program was led by Matt Schneider and Jessie Johnson, members of the Leave No Trace traveling trainer team. Johnson said, "Every year we're seeing a huge increase of

people going outside to play on their public lands, as they should be, but the damage they can do to the area is pretty substantial if they aren't aware of how to protect the resource. Our national parks are being visited by millions more people each year. That's a lot of added footprints, and in many cases worse."

### **Do You Have Thoughts On Visitor Services At Glen Canyon? Here's How You Can Make Your Voice Heard.**

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (3/19) reports that Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is seeking public input "regarding visitor services to help inform new concession contracts for the uplake, downlake and possibly Lees Ferry districts." Superintendent William Shott said, "We are taking this extra step and asking for public comments now because we want to hear from folks at the beginning of the process. This is an opportunity for anyone interested to offer options as we look at a blank slate for new visitor service contracts for the park."

### **Yellowstone Bison Slaughter Protester Pleads Guilty.**

The [AP](#) (3/19) reports that "a man who chained himself to a concrete-filled barrel in an effort to prevent trucks from hauling Yellowstone National Park bison to slaughter has pleaded guilty." Joshua Rivera "pleaded guilty Monday to trespassing and interfering with a government employee." Rivera and "another man were arrested Friday after they chained themselves to 55-gallon (208-liter) barrels in an attempt to block a road in Yellowstone." The men are members of the group Wild Buffalo Defense.

### **Areas Of Prince William Forrest Park Will Open.**

The [AP](#) (3/19) reports that "areas of Prince William Forrest Park in Virginia will open after a March windstorm." According to a National Park Service news release, "areas that are clear of fallen and hazardous trees will open Monday."

### **Most Of Downtown Now In Federal Historic District.**

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (3/20, Huddleston) reports that downtown San Antonio and the River Walk have been designated a Federal Historic District. The National Park Service "added the district to the National Register of Historic Places last month, nearly 18 months after the Texas Historical Commission approved an application prepared by the city's Office of Historic Preservation." According to the article, "the new district includes nearly 200 buildings and other historic properties, many of which were constructed between 1912 and 1930."

### **Capitol Reef National Park Gets New Superintendent.**

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/19) reports that "Susan Fritzke, deputy superintendent of four National Park Service sites in the San Francisco Bay Area, has been named superintendent of Capitol Reef National Park."

Fritzke, "who served as acting superintendent Bryce Canyon National Park in 2016-17, assumes her new post on April 15." Sue Masica, the park service's Intermountain Region director, said in a statement, "Sue is an accomplished park manager and strong communicator who knows how to foster a positive workplace and build relationships with local communities and elected officials."

### **New Interim Leader Assigned To Gettysburg National Military Park.**

WITF-TV Harrisburg, PA (3/19, McDevitt) reports that "Chris Stein will serve as the acting superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site until July of this year." Stein was "most recently Chief of Heritage Areas and Partnerships in the National Park Service Midwest Region." He said, "I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve as acting superintendent for Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site for the next few months. My goals during my time here include nurturing and building relationships of mutual benefit with partners, and continuing to provide opportunities for residents, visitors, and volunteers to help care for, protect and interpret park resources."

### **Insular And International Affairs**

---

#### **New US, CNMI Flags Raised At Kagman Center.**

Marianas Variety (3/20, Todiño) reports that "the U.S. and CNMI flags are now finally flying at the Kagman Community Center and Department of Public Station police substation in Kagman." Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero "said they will also secure a Homeland Security or a US Department of Interior flag that will also be flown in the area."

### **US Geological Survey**

---

#### **3.0-Magnitude Earthquake Rattles Parts Of Central Oklahoma.**

The AP (3/18) reports central Oklahoma has been struck once again by a "3.0-magnitude earthquake." According to the U.S. Geological Survey "the quake was recorded at 1:50 p.m. Sunday about 9 miles north-northwest of Langston." Over the past few years "thousands of earthquakes have been recorded in Oklahoma...with many linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production." Regulators in the state "have directed several oil and gas producers in the state to close injection wells or reduce volumes."

#### **Additional Reading.**

- *Video: World's Largest Geyser Erupts At Yellowstone National Park.* Newsweek (3/19, Bartels).

### **Opinion Pieces**

---

### **All Hail Ryan Zinke, Our Imperial Viceroy.**

In his [Washington Post](#) (3/19, Milbank), Dana Milbank blasts Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's job performance, saying he runs the Department like "a 19th-century colonial governor or imperial viceroy." Zinke "assigned a staffer to hoist a special secretarial flag whenever he enters Interior Department headquarters," and he "commissioned a commemorative coin with his name on it." Milbank also criticizes Zinke for spending "tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars...on private plane and helicopter rides."

### **Veteran Questions Zinke's "Attack On The Antiquities Act".**

In an op-ed for the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (3/19, Jarvenic), Michael Jarnevic, a retired U.S. Army sergeant major, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "proposals to shrivel multiple national monuments is nothing more than caving to the nefarious interests of the extractive resource industry — an industry that has been a consistent foe of wildlife and wildlands." Jarnevic asks if this is "the way Zinke wants to be remembered? Zinke as the 'great desecrator' and the self-absorbed footman to the corporate giants?"

### **Commentary: Will The Future Of Southeast Utah Be As A National Monument Or An Oil Rig?**

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/19, Capelin), Beverly Capelin, founder and mission director of Deer Hill Expeditions, warns that "southeast Utah, home to one of the most culturally and archaeologically complex landscapes in the country, is on the brink of being replaced by a different kind of legacy: oil and gas development." On Tuesday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "scheduled to offer oil and gas leases on public lands, specifically targeting the doorstep of Bears Ears National Monument — or what used to be the boundary of the national monument." Those at Deer Hill "believe there are areas where energy development is appropriate, but cultural landscapes interwoven with a dozen ancient community centers, dating back 900 years, are not." Capelin urges Zinke "to take a hard look at the cultural and recreational interests in southeast Utah so he can come to the inevitable conclusion that oil and gas leasing does not belong among archaeological preserves."

### **Editorial: Drones Offer A New Tool To Firefighters.**

In an editorial, the [Albany \(OR\) Democrat-Herald](#) (3/19) says that "firefighters are excited about how drones — those unmanned aircraft that can offer a wealth of information about fire conditions — can help battle these blazes." The paper notes that the Interior Department's "increasing use of drones to gather information about wildfires is part of the department's growing reliance on the vehicles for other uses as well, such as drawing maps or surveying wildlife: In total in 2017, the department flew nearly 5,000 drone flights, up from about 750 the year before." The editorial is glad to "see progress in this area, because there isn't any

progress apparent in Congress on the issue on how best to pay for firefighting costs.”

### **Additional Reading.**

- *If This Arizona Energy Plant Shuts Down, The Consequences Will Be Dire.* [Daily Caller](#) (3/19, Stevens).
- *Congress Must Reject Westlands Settlement As Unjust To Hoopa Tribe.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/19, Jackson).
- *Yes, Interior Secretary Zinke’s Comments To Rep. Hanabusa Were Racist.* [Maui \(HI\) Time Weekly](#) (3/19, Pignataro).
- *Guest View: Monumental Battles – Protecting Sacred Tribal Lands.* [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/19, Mills).
- *Dan K. Thomasson: Land Of Beauty Threatened By Oil And Gas Leases.* [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/19, Thomasson).
- *Editorial: It’s Past Time To Set Buffer Zone Around Chaco Canyon.* [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/20).
- *Congress Must Renew Funding For Vital Environmental Programs.* [Elizabethtown \(NY\) Sun Community News](#) (3/19, Stefanik, Tavares).
- *Monday Editorial: Hispanic Leadership Award Winners Are An Inspiring Group.* [Florida Times-Union](#) (3/19).
- *African Trophy Species Need Legal Protection.* [Salem \(OH\) News](#) (3/19).
- *Trump Must Not Permit Elephant Trophy Imports.* [Youngstown \(OH\) Vindicator](#) (3/20).
- *RECLAIM Act Won’t Meaningfully Help Coal Communities.* [Pottstown \(PA\) Mercury](#) (3/19, Loris).
- *Ryan Zinke Wrong That Trump Proposal Would Be Biggest Ever For Public Lands.* [PolitiFact](#) (3/19, Jacobson).

### **Top National News**

---

#### **Trump Unveils Strategy To Fight Opioid Crisis Including Border Security, Death Penalty For Traffickers.**

Local media coverage painted a largely favorable picture of the President’s [remarks](#) about the opioid epidemic during a visit to Manchester, New Hampshire, while national outlets cast them as overly focused on law enforcement and lacking on the treatment/prevention side. The [Washington Post](#) (3/19, Wagner, Zezima), for example, reports that Trump’s “focus on punitive measures alarmed some in the public health community, who fear it will overshadow proposals...for prevention and treatment,” and [Politico](#) (3/19, Diamond, Ehley) that “public health experts and lawmakers...worry Trump’s harsh immigration rhetoric and focus on law enforcement...will overshadow bipartisan treatment and prevention measures.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/19, story 6, 2:05, Snow), meanwhile, interviewed Chief Ed Garone of the Derry Police Department, who said of Trump’s death penalty comments, “I don’t know if we should spend a lot of

energy on that. I think meaningful sentencing will help." NBC went on to talk Susan Markovitz, who had attended the speech and whose son Chad "starting using pills in eighth grade" and "at 25 died of a heroin overdose." Markovitz was shown saying, "There's only so many recovery centers. If they can't get funding and they have to shut their doors, we're going to be way worse than we ever were." NBC also noted the views of "Alexa," a "recovering heroin addict" who "voted for Mr. Trump but is skeptical" of his plans to launch an ad campaign warning against the dangers of drugs. Said Alexa, "We already did the war on drugs and it didn't work."

The speech generated extensive coverage, including reports on all three major network broadcasts and numerous stories on local TV newscasts and national and regional print outlets. The story was not, however, a significant topic of discussion on evening cable shows, which largely focused on the Russia investigation.

Across the board, reports on Trump's remarks highlight his call for greater penalties for drug dealers – including the death penalty "where it's appropriate under current law" – as well as his efforts to link his border security proposals to the opioid crisis. [Fox News](#) (3/19, Leventhal), for example, reported shortly after the speech that Trump "gave a list of things he wants to put in place to try to tackle this head on," including "eliminating sanctuary cities," which he said "are sheltering the most dangerous people – the drug dealers, the drug traffickers." Trump also said "the border wall is very important," and that he "believes...that wall...will prevent the drugs from getting in here across the southern border." NBC News correspondent Jacob Soboroff quickly took issue with Trump's view on [MSNBC](#) (3/19), saying that Trump "goes out there and he talks about the idea that a border wall is going to stop people from dying of fentanyl in the United States. The reality is: number one, most of the drugs that come across the southern border from Mexico...are coming through legal ports of the entry," and "that's according to his own DEA. ... And number two, the fentanyl is coming directly to New Hampshire...from China through his own United States Postal Service."

The [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (3/19, Feely), meanwhile, reports Trump's plan "includes three main pieces: reducing the over-prescription of, and demand for, opioids; cutting off the supply of illegal drugs inside the US and crossing the country's borders; and increasing the number of treatment and recovery services available." The Union Leader quotes Trump as saying, "This scourge of drug addiction in America will stop. ... It will stop. Failure is not an option. We will raise a drug-free generation of American children." [WHDH-TV Boston](#) (3/19, 9:03 p.m. EDT) noted that Trump "said the drug issue could only be resolved with brains, resolve and...toughness." Trump was shown saying, "We'll be tough. We'll be smart. We'll be kind. We'll be loving. We'll do whatever we have to do, but we are going to win." WHDH added that Trump "is giving himself two terms to solve the opioid problem." Trump said, "I want to win this battle. I don't want to leave at the end of seven years and have this problem." [WWLP-](#)

TV Springfield, MA (3/19, 5:24 p.m. EDT), meanwhile, showed Trump saying, "Addiction is not our future; we will liberate our country from this crisis."

☒ WCVB-TV Boston (3/19, 5:04 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump "largely stayed on topic, except when he bashed Democrats over his proposed southern border wall and DACA." The President was shown saying, "Ninety percent of the heroin in America comes from the southern border where eventually the Democrats will agree with us and we'll build the wall to keep the damn drugs out." Breitbart (3/19, Spiering) indicates Trump's words prompted "chants of 'build that wall' in the room," while a New York Daily News (3/19, Sommerfeldt) story accuses Trump of "repeatedly blaming immigrants and Democrats for the country's deadly opioid epidemic." TIME (3/19, Berenson) reports "the president's trip was billed as a non-political, policy-oriented event," but Trump "swerved into politics during the speech, linking his opioid efforts to building a border wall, sanctuary cities and the fight over DACA in Congress."

Foster's Daily Democrat (NH) (3/19, Dinan) recounts that Trump remembered "the victim of a fatal overdose in Portsmouth 2½ years ago, Adam James Moser," during his appearance. The Daily Democrat adds that "a framed photo of Moser was held by his parents, Jeanne and James Moser of East Kingston, who were called to the stage of the Manchester Community College by the president." Trump "called Adam Moser a 'beautiful boy,' told his parents, 'We applaud your strength and leadership,' then called them to the stage." Jeanne Moser "clutched the photo of her son and said Adam was their oldest and a 'smart kid' who earned a degree in actuarial science, the science of risk. She said he was the kind of kid who felt good about himself, but 'he just made a bad choice one night.'"

☒ WFXT-TV Boston (3/19, 5:02 p.m. EDT) also described how "when...Trump called that family up on stage, they were holding a photo of their son, clutching it tight to their chests, just one face of thousands they say was lost to the crisis." Trump was shown saying, "I especially want to acknowledge all the families with us today who have endured terrible hardships because of the opioid crisis."

The New Hampshire Union Leader (3/19, Feely) reports Trump also "called for stiffer penalties for drug dealers – including the death penalty 'where it's appropriate under current law.'" Axios (3/19, Kight) noted that the President "went on to praise other countries who execute drug dealers, saying 'they don't play games,'" and the New York Times (3/19, Haberman, Goodnough, Seelye) that Trump's comment was "an apparent reference to conversations he has described having with President Xi Jinping of China and President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines, who told him that the death penalties in their countries meant there was less of a drug problem."

The ☒ CBS Evening News (3/19, story 6, 0:20, Glor), in a brief report, showed Trump saying, "If we don't get tough on the drug dealers, we're wasting our time. Just remember that. We're wasting our time." The Boston Globe (3/19, Miller) notes Trump added, "And that toughness



includes the death penalty.”

☒ WBZ-TV Boston (3/19, 5:02 p.m. EDT) reported that “Trump’s visit to New England put the opioid crisis front and center,” and WMUR-TV Manchester, NH (3/19, Brewer) that the visit “comes as new overdose numbers have just been released for the state’s largest cities. In Manchester, overdoses through early March were up 23% from this time last year, but overdose deaths were down 27%.” WMUR added that “in Nashua, overdoses were up 28%, but deaths were down 38%.” The Washington Times (3/19, Howell) recalls that Trump “called the state a ‘drug-infested den’ in leaked transcripts of a January 2017 call with the Mexican president, which were published by The Washington Post.” However, “he talked up the state Monday, extolling Republican Gov. Christopher T. Sununu and pointing to the number of voters in the room.” WCVB-TV Boston (3/19) noted that before his speech, Trump “visited the Central Fire Station to discuss the ‘safe station’ program, which allows people to seek assistance without recrimination.” The President “hailed the ‘safe station’ as a national model before turning the stage to the chief, the governor and the mayor.” Said Sununu, “Safe Station has really become the gold standard of access points and access to treatment, which we know is one of the most critical aspects of tackling the opioid crisis.”

The Boston Herald (3/19, Battenfeld) reports the First Lady also “took a rare speaking role at the event at Manchester Community College, saying, ‘I’m proud of this administration’s commitment to battling this epidemic.’” The President and First Lady “embraced and kissed on stage,” and the Herald notes “it was her first appearance with her husband since the Stormy Daniels scandal broke.” To the Herald, “the speech had all the trappings of a campaign event, and its importance was highlighted by the presence of Melania, who spoke before her husband on stage.” Bloomberg News (3/19, Sink) notes Trump was also “joined on the trip by embattled Attorney General Jeff Sessions, whom the president has repeatedly and publicly criticized for having recused himself from Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russia’s meddling in the 2016 election.” Sessions “has been subject to rumors that he could be among the next top-level administration officials to lose their jobs after the departure last week of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.”

On ☒ ABC World News Tonight (3/19, story 4, 0:40, Muir), Cecilia Vega similarly noted that “right there in the crowd” was Trump’s “embattled attorney general,” who for the moment was “in the President’s good graces.” Trump was shown saying, “Jeff Sessions, who’s here with us now, feels so strongly about this.” NPR (3/19, Horsley) reported Sessions later said in a statement, “At the Department of Justice, we have made ending the drug epidemic a priority. ... We will continue to aggressively prosecute drug traffickers and we will use federal law to seek the death penalty wherever appropriate.”

The New York Post (3/19, Fredericks) notes Trump had “stressed prevention programs and treatment for those already addicted,” and

"suggested public service commercials and programs that would scare people away from addictive drugs." Said Trump, "This is something that I have been very strongly in favor of, spending a lot of money on great commercials showing how so that kids seeing those on television shows or on the internet, when they see these commercials, they say 'I don't want any part of it.'" Along those lines, the [AP](#) (3/19) reports the President "vowed to help create 'a generation of drug-free children.'" Another [AP](#) (3/19) dispatch indicates he also "announced a new website – [crisisnextdoor.gov](http://crisisnextdoor.gov) – that warned of the dangers of opioids, including fentanyl."

Moreover, [WMUR-TV](#) Manchester, NH (3/19, 5:01 p.m. EDT) reported, Trump "once again signaled a willingness to take on major drug manufacturers with a federal opioid lawsuit." Trump was shown saying, "Some states are already bringing it , but we're thinking about bringing it in at a very high federal level, and we'll do the job." The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (3/19, Thisle) notes Trump also "said doctors would play a key role and vowed to see the number of painkiller prescriptions cut by a third under his administration." The President went on to announce "a new program by the maker of the life-saving overdose antidote naloxone, known largely by it's brand name Narcan, bringing Mike Kelly, the president of Adapt Pharma to the stage to announce the company would be providing free doses of the antidote to US high schools, colleges and universities."

[USA Today](#) (3/19) writes that Trump's "call for emulating countries that execute drug dealers garnered most of the headlines," but "at least on the prevention side of the problem, the president was on to something when he said that 'the best way to beat the drug crisis is to keep people from getting hooked on drugs to begin with.'" Patrice Harris, chair of the American Medical Association Opioid Task Force and a practicing psychiatrist in Atlanta, responds in [USA Today](#) (3/19) that doctors "accept and embrace our professional responsibility to treat our patients' pain and advocate for solutions that work. We are doing precisely that."

Ahead of the President's trip to New Hampshire, HHS Secretary Azar said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (3/19, 7:19 a.m. ET), "The President today is laying out very bold action and historic goals to stop this crisis dead in its tracks. He is saying within three years, we will reduce the prescribing of legal opioids by one third, and within five years, all federal healthcare reimbursement programs and all federal healthcare providers will follow the best evidence-based use of legal opioids. He has a plan." Regarding the President's call for the death penalty for drug dealers, Azar said, "I think this shows the seriousness with which President Trump and we take this crisis, meaning that if you are involved in the distribution of illicit drugs or if you are improperly using, selling, distributing even legal opioids, there should be serious penalties attached and serious enforcement attached to all of that."

***Media Analyses, Some Commentators Skeptical Of Death Penalty***

**Component In Trump Strategy.** The Boston Globe (3/19, Miller) reports that "critics have warned that the president's effort" to use the death penalty against certain traffickers "might be ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, which in 2008 limited the death penalty to crimes that result in a victim's death or crimes against the state, like treason, espionage or terrorism." Moreover, says Reuters (3/19, Rampton, Holland), calls for "the execution of drug dealers" have "so far...gained little support in Congress, amid criticism from some drug abuse and criminal justice experts." Van Jones said on CNN's Newsroom (3/19) that when he visited West Virginia recently, he met with sheriffs and pastors and "nobody is saying what we really need is the death penalty for drug dealers. I don't know where he's getting that stuff. That is 180 degrees from what the people on the ground are saying. ... This death penalty thing is a complete nonstarter and it's divisive and it's stupid. I think it's an offense to the people who are really trying to solve this problem."

WWLP-TV Springfield, MA (3/19, 5:24 p.m. EDT) reported Trump said "the Justice Department will even seek the death penalty for drug pushers," an idea the ACLU said in a statement is "unconstitutional and absurd." WGGB-TV Springfield, MA (3/19, 6:23 p.m. EDT) also said "some treatment advocates oppose the idea, saying there is no way the US can punish its way out of the epidemic."

On ABC World News Tonight (3/19, story 6, 0:45, Muir), Cecilia Vega was asked about the President's call to use the death penalty against certain drug traffickers. To the question, "How does the President plan to make this happen?" Vega replied that "it appears that he wants to enforce certain laws on the books that are not currently being used." The New York Times (3/19, Haberman, Goodnough, Seelye), however, reports "White House officials would not answer what type of hypothetical case would involve the death penalty, referring questions to the Justice Department." Meanwhile, "civil liberties lawyers were highly critical of Mr. Trump's endorsement of the death penalty for traffickers and said it would be unworkable."

USA Today (3/19, Korte) similarly indicates that Trump "did not give any specifics about how his administration would enforce the death penalty, but Kellyanne Conway told reporters on Air Force One that the death penalty would apply to 'very specific high-level cases.'" An AP (3/19, Gurman) analysis of Trump's death penalty plans asks, "Can he do that?" Its response is "maybe. Trump isn't proposing a new law, but is encouraging the Justice Department to enforce existing laws more vigorously." However, "no administration, Democratic or Republican, has ever pursued and secured a death sentence under those laws."

**Shaheen, Pelosi Say Strategy Lacks Sufficient Funding.** Sen. Jeanne Shaheen said on CNN's The Lead (3/19), "We need resources. We need to get people into treatment. Frankly, to have a death penalty that after all the appeals, 20 years down the road, might make a difference at putting some drug dealer behind bars, and putting them away, is not going to help

with the immediate crisis that we're facing. What we need the President to do is to make good on his rhetoric. And we've heard a lot from the President in New Hampshire. We've heard him talk during the campaign about what needed to be done to address this opioid epidemic. Then we heard him go after New Hampshire because of the challenges that we are facing. But what we haven't heard him do is to put the resources behind his rhetoric, to say, 'This is a crisis and I'm going on put everything I've got against it.'"

Voice of America (3/19, Chang) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi "warned that the president's proposals need funding or they will end up being 'more broken promises from the Trump administration.'" Said Pelosi, "Trump's budget called for staggering cuts to Medicaid, CDC, and mental health and substance abuse funding that is essential to helping families afford treatment and overcome the tragedy of opioid addiction. ... He has worked to destroy the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion and allow the sale of junk health insurance plans that do not cover substance abuse treatment. And now, President Trump darkly flirts with imposing the death penalty for drug crimes."

Along those lines, the Los Angeles Times (3/19, Bierman, Levey) reports the President announced his plan "even as his administration continues to push significant cuts to healthcare assistance used to combat addiction," and adds that the White House "proposal lacks details on federal spending, however." The Times adds that "the administration's separate proposals for major cuts to Medicaid, the chief source of funds for people seeking treatment for drug addiction, are causing advocates to question the president's commitment." The New York Times (3/19, Haberman, Goodnough, Seelye), meanwhile, says Trump "offered up more tough talk than he did specifics about his plan, or how he would pay for it."

### **Trump To Unveil \$60 Billion Tariff Package Against China.**

The Washington Post (3/19, Paletta, Mufson, Dawsey) reports that "four senior administration officials" have confirmed that President Trump plans to unveil a tariff package by Friday that will impose "\$60 billion in annual tariffs against China, following through on a long-time threat that he says will punish China for intellectual property infringement and create more American jobs." The package may apply to "more than 100 products, which Trump argues were developed by using trade secrets the Chinese stole from US companies or forced them to hand over in exchange for market access." The Post says the situation is "fluid" and notes that the President has previously "backed off economic threats at the last minute."

Reuters (3/19, Shepardson, Holland, Lawder) cites a "business source, who has discussed the issue with the administration," who "said that the China tariffs may be subject to a public comment period, which would delay their effective date and allow industry groups and companies to lodge objections." That approach "would be considerably different from the quick implementation of the steel and aluminum tariffs, which are set

to go into effect on March 23, just 15 days after President Donald Trump signed the proclamations.”

***Krugman: Administration Hanging On To “Zombie Ideas” On International Economics.*** Paul Krugman writes in the New York Times (3/19) that since “globalists” like Gary Cohn have left the Administration, “all the people advising Trump on international economics are, like those advising him on everything else, in thrall to zombie ideas. ... You might say that when it comes to international trade, Trumpworld is heading for a kind of zombie civil war.” The “neo-mercantilists – people like Peter Navarro, Trump’s trade czar...see world trade as a tale of winners and losers: Countries with trade surpluses win; those with trade deficits lose.” The “neo-goldbugs...think that a nation’s strength can be measured by the strength of its currency, and refuse to see any downside in a strong dollar, never see any reason a weaker dollar might be needed.” On international economics, Krugman adds, the Administration “is now on track for a battle of the zombies – a fight between two sets of bad ideas that refuse to die.”

### **Bipartisan Negotiations Continue Over \$1.3 Trillion Spending Bill.**

The Washington Post (3/19, Werner, Costa, Debonis) reports “Congressional negotiators raced Monday to finalize a \$1.3 trillion spending bill to keep the government running, with several thorny issues such as health care and immigration still unresolved ahead of an end-of-week deadline.” The Post adds that measure “was supposed to be released Monday night,” but “bipartisan congressional leaders remained locked in negotiations on several issues, and the eleventh-hour wrangling carried the potential to delay the bill’s release.” The Washington Times (3/19, Dinan, Sherfinski) says that as talks continue, “Trump was likely to get \$1.6 billion in border security funding, which could cover one year’s worth of construction on the first sections of his border wall.” Yet “illegal immigrant ‘Dreamers’ weren’t likely to get any new protections, lawmakers said as they emerged from an evening briefing.” Meanwhile, “key Obamacare money was also likely to be dropped from the bill, while decisions about federal funding for a tunnel into New York City and restrictions on taxpayer money being used to fund abortions were still being hashed out, lawmakers said.” The Times adds “GOP leaders were pushing for a vote Wednesday on legislation that was likely to stretch into the thousands of pages, giving members little time to review what they’ll be approving.” The Senate “would also have to approve the deal, as Congress races a Friday shutdown deadline.”

Politico (3/19, Ferris, Everett, Bade) also says “Trump administration and Hill GOP sources say the new spending package is unlikely to include legislation shoring up Obamacare’s insurance markets. One White House official called it a ‘heavy lift’ – even as President Donald Trump made a last-minute push Monday to include the provision in the legislation.” Earlier yesterday, the Washington Post (3/19, Werner, Costa, Debonis) reported on its website that Trump “assured two Senate Republicans in a weekend

conference call that he wants tens of billions of dollars to lower health-care premiums included in a must-pass spending bill." Trump made the commitment related to payments to insurers under the Affordable Care Act during "an hour-long call Saturday with Sens. Lamar Alexander and Susan Collins, according to three people briefed on the conversation."

The Washington Examiner (3/19, Ferrechio) says "Congress is struggling to find agreement over several dozen 'riders' on a \$1.2 trillion omnibus spending package that must pass by Friday midnight," and USA Today (3/19, Shesgreen) that the bill "would fund the government through Sept. 30, the end of the nation's fiscal year."

According to a Bloomberg News (3/19, Litvan) posted earlier Monday, "conservative Republicans are poised to lose another fiscal fight this week" as House Speaker Ryan and Senate Majority Leader McConnell "plan to rely on Democratic help to push the bill through over the conservatives' objections." House Freedom Caucus leader Mark Meadows said, "I don't have a whole lot of optimism that there will be any significant conservative wins." Meadows, however, "predicted that many of his colleagues will support the measure," because they "believe the military needs more funding and the increased domestic spending is a price that must be paid." The Hill (3/19, Zanona) too says that "some conservatives have balked at the price tag of the omnibus," but "appropriators are hopeful that they will be able to resolve any outstanding issues and attract enough bipartisan support to avoid a government shutdown by Friday's deadline."

A later update on The Hill (3/19, Lillis) indicated that "the path to a bipartisan deal remains hindered by a handful of tough issues still to be ironed out, according to numerous sources familiar with the talks." For example, Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), "chairman of the far-right House Freedom Caucus, on Monday...singled out the Gateway funding as a continued barrier to a deal." The President "has threatened to veto the omnibus package if it includes the Gateway project." The Wall Street Journal (3/19, Peterson, Armour), meanwhile, sees healthcare and immigration as the main issues in dispute as the funding deadline nears, and the AP (3/19, Taylor) points to "though disputes...over immigration, abortion and a massive rail project."

***Agreement To Curb Sexual Harassment On Hill Unlikely To Be In Spending Bill.*** Politico (3/19, Schor, Caygle) reports that a "bipartisan, bicameral agreement to overhaul Capitol Hill's oft-criticized workplace misconduct system is unlikely to get attached to a government spending bill that must pass by week's end to avoid a shutdown, according to multiple sources tracking the issue." Politico says the "sudden shift in the fate of the Hill harassment measure...jeopardizes its chances of getting signed into law" by the President.

***WSJournal Criticizes Republicans Considering A Lifeline For ACA.*** The Wall Street Journal (3/19) laments in an editorial that Republicans may include funding in the omnibus bill to preserve the Affordable Care Act through the 2020 election, arguing that Republicans lawmakers are

seeking to preserve their own political futures by keeping the law alive.

### **Ahead Of Friday Deadline, White House And Democrats Seek To Break DACA Deadlock.**

The Hill (3/19, Carney) reports the White House and congressional Democrats are "struggling to break a stalemate on immigration, with both sides rejecting competing proposals over the weekend." According to a source, the Administration "pitched a deal to include \$25 billion in border wall funding and a two-and-a-half-year extension of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in a mammoth government funding bill, but Democrats rejected the offer." The source added that Democrats "countered by offering \$25 billion in border wall funding in exchange for a pathway to citizenship" for the "Dreamers," but the White House "said no." Politico (3/19, Everett) says the "impasse shows how far apart the two sides are ahead of a Friday deadline to fund the government: This could be Trump's best chance to get wall money, particularly if Democrats win back the House this fall."

*Trump: Democrats Unwilling To Make Deal.* The Washington Examiner (3/19, Mayfield) reports that in a tweet Monday night, President Trump "called out Democrats...claiming they are unwilling to make a deal surrounding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program." Trump tweeted, "The Democrats do not want to help DACA. Would be so easy to make a deal."

### **US, South Korea, Japan Discuss North Korea Denuclearization.**

The AP (3/19, Kim) reports that top US, South Korean and Japanese officials "discussed how to achieve the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula during weekend talks ahead of upcoming inter-Korean and US-North Korean summits, Seoul said Monday." National Security Adviser McMaster met his South Korean and Japanese counterparts, Chung Eui-yong and Shotaro Yachi, in San Francisco for talks over the weekend on denuclearization and the summit talks, South Korea's presidential office said in a statement. According to the statement, they "agreed to maintain close trilateral cooperation in the next several weeks and shared a view that it's important not to repeat past mistakes," but didn't elaborate.

The Washington Times (3/19, Boyer) notes "a senior North Korean diplomat, meanwhile, flew to Finland on Sunday for talks with former US officials as well as American and South Korean civilian academics." The meeting, "set for Tuesday and Wednesday, is a possible opportunity to examine the North's sincerity about its denuclearization pledges."

The Washington Post (3/19, Nakamura) reports that "even under the best of circumstances, President Trump's planned summit with North Korea's leader would be a daunting challenge," but the Administration, "that might be the least of its worries. In the breakneck rush to prepare Trump for his meeting with Kim Jong Un in May, the White House is overseeing a frantic scramble to resolve even the most fundamental

questions on the US side: Where will the summit be? Who will be at the table? What should be on the agenda?" Officials have "about 2½ months to figure it out – a rapid timetable, especially given the tumult roiling the White House." In a private event with campaign donors last week, Trump "boasted that he was willing to take risks that his predecessors – George W. Bush and Barack Obama – were not."

***US, South Korea To Resume Joint Exercises.*** The New York Times (3/19, Cooper) reports the US and South Korea "will resume their annual joint military exercises on April 1, the Pentagon announced Monday, restarting drills that have aroused the ire of North Korea and were suspended during the Olympics and Paralympics." The Times adds that "Washington and Seoul had agreed to delay the drills after South and North Korea announced they were beginning a diplomatic rapprochement, with the North sending a delegation to the Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea." The Washington Post (3/19, Lamothe) says "the exercises have typically outraged the North Korean regime."

***WSJournal A1: Critics Warn North Korean Regime Benefiting From Faith-Based Aid Workers' Increased Role.*** In a front-page analysis, the Wall Street Journal (3/19, A1, Lyons, Cheng) says the international campaign to combat Kim's aggressive nuclear missile program by targeting commerce and reducing foreign aid has largely shifted humanitarian efforts to faith-based organizations. Aid workers maintain that North Korean civilians are in dire need of medical and food assistance, but critics warn that their attempts to reverse anti-American sentiment may backfire and benefit the next generation of North Korean computer hackers, missile scientists, and the regime itself by allowing it to spend even more money on programs that threaten the US and allied nations.

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

### **New York Times.**

***"America's Role In Yemen's Agony Can End On Capitol Hill."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/19) says Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is visiting the US to promote "his image as an enlightened reformer out to modernize his conservative country and encourage foreign investment," but that image has been "stained by his chief foreign policy initiative, the humanitarian catastrophe that is the war in Yemen, in which at least 10,000 civilians have been killed, many as a result of indiscriminate airstrikes by the Saudis and their Persian Gulf partners." The Times says President Trump should not be expected to "persuade him to halt the war," but a "bipartisan resolution," which would end "American military involvement in Yemen within 30 days unless Congress formally authorizes it, could face a Senate vote as early as Tuesday." The Times argues that this resolution would "curtail what they view as unchecked presidential warmaking powers," while forcing much-needed, "serious debate and accountability."

***"Facebook Leaves Its Users' Privacy Vulnerable."*** In an editorial, the



New York Times (3/19) says, "Lawmakers and regulators also ought to investigate Facebook's response," beginning with taking "a close look at whether the company is in violation of a 2011 consent decree with the Federal Trade Commission, which had accused it of deceiving users by telling them their information would be kept private and then allowing it to be shared and made public. They also need to force the company to quickly identify and alert the tens of millions of people whose information might have been disclosed to Cambridge." The Times adds that "Congress clearly needs to strengthen privacy laws to give people more control over private information and prevent businesses and political campaigns from harvesting personal data under false pretenses."

***"The Wrong People Are Criticizing Donald Trump."*** A New York Times (3/19) editorial argues that Republicans "should be pushing back on [President] Trump now in part to keep him from firing [special counsel Robert] Mueller, a move that could strain our institutions past their breaking point. Even better, they should pass legislation protecting Mr. Mueller from being fired without good cause."

***"Investigate Killings In The Philippines."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/19) urges the International Criminal Court to continue its investigation into the more than 8,000 extrajudicial killings under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug campaign. The Times says Duterte's "belated attempt to elude the court" on Wednesday by threatening to withdraw the Philippines from the ICC "should only spur it to greater efforts." The Times says Duterte's campaign may have "began as a war on drugs," but it has since "expanded to include Mr. Duterte's critics, including the media and international human rights organizations," and the ICC "is supposed to step in if national courts don't bring to justice perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide."

### **Washington Post.**

***"Trump's Attacks On Law Enforcement Are Escalating. Here's How Republicans Could Protect Mueller."*** Arguing that President Trump's attacks on special counsel Robert Mueller "have become more aggressive in recent days," the Washington Post (3/19) says in an editorial that it is "urgent" for House Speaker Ryan and Senate Majority Leader McConnell to "act to deter Mr. Trump from a catastrophic decision to fire Mr. Mueller."

***"Putin's Next Term Could Be Even More Dangerous."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/19) says that "like...Trump, Mr. Putin has promised to raise economic growth above 3 percent from its current level of under 2 percent. But with oil prices flat and Western sanctions increasing in response to provocations like this month's nerve-agent attack on a former Russian spy in Britain, that appears unlikely. Similarly, Mr. Putin has on several occasions declared Russia's intervention in Syria a mission accomplished," but "the war doesn't appear likely to end anytime soon." To the Post, "these troubles could make Mr. Putin more rather than less dangerous," and "only forceful Western action will deter Mr. Putin." For

example, “Ukrainian forces should be supplied with more weapons, and cyberattacks should be answered.”

**“Virginia’s Medicaid Impasse, Courtesy Of The GOP.”** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/19) criticizes Virginia State Senate Republicans who have “dug in their heels once again to oppose a Medicaid expansion that would extend health insurance to roughly 400,000 citizens,” noting that their position is not only at odds with public opinion and “many of the GOP members in the House of Delegates,” and but “heedless of hard-working Virginians for whom there is no health-care alternative save the emergency room.”

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**“Life Support For Obamacare.”** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/19) laments in an editorial that Republicans may include funding in the omnibus bill to preserve ObamaCare through the 2020 election, arguing that Republicans lawmakers are seeking to preserve their own political futures by keeping the law alive.

**“Facebook Joins The Club.”** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/19) says that while progressives protected large tech companies during Obama’s presidency, liberals are now sounding the alarm after the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica controversy. The Journal says the shift occurred because of Cambridge Analytica’s ties to the Trump campaign.

**“The Senate’s Iran Helpers.”** A [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/19) editorial encourages US lawmakers to reject a push by Sens. Bernie Sanders, Mike Lee, and Chris Murphy to vote on a measure “to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress” – namely, the Saudi-backed campaign against the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels. The Journal says the proposal would benefit Iran to the detriment of Saudi Arabia – a key US counterterrorism ally – and calls on senators to instead consider an alternative resolution introduced by Sens. Todd Young and Jeanne Shaheen.

### **Big Picture**

---

#### **Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

##### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Facebook Is Pummeled by User-Data Blowback](#)

[Aramco Scales Back IPO Plan, Eyes Saudi-Only Listing](#)

[Uber Suspends Driverless-Car Program After Pedestrian Death](#)

[The Last Americans in North Korea: Christian Missionaries](#)

##### **New York Times:**

[Facebook Executive Planning To Leave Company Amid Disinformation Backlash](#)

[Cambridge Analytica, Trump-Tied Political Firm, Offered To Entrap Politicians](#)

Soldier In Bloody Niger Mission Had Warned Of Gaps, Defense Officials Say Promotions, Not Punishments For Officers Accused Of Lying  
Self-Driving Uber Car Kills Pedestrian In Arizona, Where Robots Roam  
5 Years Ago Luigi Di Maio Was Living At Home. Now He May Lead Italy.

***Washington Post:***

Trump Hires Lawyer Who Sees An FBI Conspiracy

Latest Bomb Shifts Worries

Data Mining Stirs Wider Questions For Facebook

From Rio Official To Global Symbol Global Symbol Of Racial Oppression

Trump To Impose Tariffs On China

Self-Driving Vehicle Kills Pedestrian

***Financial Times:***

UK And EU Agree Terms Of Transition

Uber Halts Self-Drive Tests After Autonomous Car Kills Pedestrian

Facebook Takes \$35bn Battering As Backlash Rises Over Data Harvest Claims

***Washington Times:***

Trump Campaign's Use Of Facebook Data Routine, First Employed By Obama

Anti-Farrakhan Resolution Prompts Black Delegation Call To Condemn Trump Instead

Republicans Punt On Conservative Spending Demands In Bid To Woo Democrats

Driverless Uber Kills Pedestrian In Arizona; Company Halts Autonomous Tests

Poroshenko, Ukraine's Political Elite Engaged In Campaign To Silence, Jail Dissenters, Activist Says

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Weather Forecast; Facebook-Cambridge Analytica; Opioid Crisis-Trump; Russia Investigation-Trump; Opioid Crisis-Trump; Gone Girl Kidnapping Case; SCOTUS-Pennsylvania Congressional Map; Arizona-Autonomous Vehicle Accident; Bermuda-American Found Dead; NY Gubernatorial Race-Cynthia Nixon.

**CBS:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Arizona-Autonomous Vehicle Accident; Weather Forecast; Facebook-Cambridge Analytica; Russia Investigation-Trump; Opioid Crisis-Trump; Bermuda-American Found Dead; Putin Re-elected; Mississippi-Accidental Shooting Case; Iraq Helicopter Crash-US Victims' Funeral; Cirque Du Soleil Accident.

**NBC:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Arizona-Autonomous Vehicle Accident; Weather Forecast; Facebook-Cambridge Analytica; Russia Investigation-Trump; Opioid Crisis-Trump; Cirque Du Soleil Accident; Iraq Helicopter Crash-US Victims' Funeral; Bermuda-American Found Dead; Claire's Files

For Bankruptcy; NY Gubernatorial Race-Cynthia Nixon.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Facebook-Cambridge Analytica – 9 minutes, 50 seconds

Texas-Serial Bomber – 8 minutes, 20 seconds

Russia Investigation-Trump – 5 minutes, 35 seconds

Arizona-Autonomous Vehicle Accident – 5 minutes, 25 seconds

Opioid Crisis-Trump – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Severe Weather; Facebook-Cambridge Analytica; Arizona-Autonomous Vehicle Accident; Bermuda-American Found Dead.

**CBS:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Arizona-Autonomous Vehicle Accident; Severe Weather; Wall Street.

**FOX:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Florida-Cruz Brother Arrested; Arizona-Autonomous Vehicle Accident; Severe Weather; Opioid Crisis-Trump; Weinstein Company Bankruptcy; Mississippi-Abortion Law Passed; SCOTUS-Pennsylvania Congressional Map; Wall Street.

**NPR:** Texas-Serial Bomber; SCOTUS-Pennsylvania Congressional Map; Weinstein Company Bankruptcy; Clair's Files For Bankruptcy; Tronc Chairman Retires.

**Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — President Trump welcomes Saudi crown prince to the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Vice President Pence keynotes National Ag Day.

FIRST LADY MELANIA TRUMP — Melania Trump holds roundtable with tech industry leaders on impacts of the internet on children.

**US Senate:** 8:45 AM Save the Children Advocacy Summit Congressional Breakfast – Save the Children Advocacy Summit concludes with Congressional Breakfast. Speakers over the summit's three days include Independent Sen. Angus King, Democratic Sen. Patty Murray, Republican Reps. Hal Rogers and Kevin Yoder, Acting Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Heather Nauert, Cook National Political Report National Editor Amy Walter, Ballmer Group Managing Director Jeff Edmondson, and Save the Children President and CEO Carolyn Miles, U.S. Programs and Advocacy Senior Vice President Mark Shriver, and Save the Children Action Network President Kris Perry.

9:30 AM Hearing on 'United States Strategic Command', with testimony from U.S. Strategic Command Commander Gen. John Hyten.

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee considers HHS nominees – Nominations hearing considers John Bartrum to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services; and Lynn Johnson to be Assistant Secretary of

Health and Human Services for Family Support.

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Need to Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act'.

10:00 AM Senate Public Works subcommittee considers TVA nominee – Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee nominations hearing considers John Ryder to be a Tennessee Valley Authority Member of the Board of Directors.

10:00 AM Energy Secretary Perry testifies to Senate committee hearing on FY'19 budget – Hearing 'To Examine the President's Budget Request for the Department of Energy for Fiscal Year 2019', with testimony from Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

10:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S. Res. 85, A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history', 'S. Res. 426, A resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day', 'H.R.1660 – Global Health Innovation Act of 2017'; treaties; and the nominations of Erik Bethel to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Kevin Edward Moley to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, Josephine Olsen to be Peace Corps Director, Robert Pence to be U.S. Ambassador to Finland, Dr. Judy Shelton to be U.S. Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Trevor Traina to be U.S. Ambassador to Austria, and Andrea Thompson to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

12:15 PM Senate Intel Committee Members to Hold Press Conference Tuesday to Preview Election Security Findings – Speakers: Senate Intel Committee Chairman Richard Burr (R-NC); Senate Intel Committee Vice Chairman Mark Warner (D-VA); Senator Susan Collins (R-ME); Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM); Senator James Lankford (R-OK); Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA).

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters.

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on USMC modernization – Seapower Subcommittee hearing on 'Marine Corps Ground Modernization', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Expeditionary Programs and Logistics Management Jimmy Smith; and U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, Marine Corps Combat Development Command Commanding General, and U.S. Marine Forces Strategic Command Commander Lt. Gen. Robert Walsh.

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on the Takata airbag recall – Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance and Data Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Update on NHTSA and Automaker Efforts to Repair Defective Takata Air Bag Inflators', with testimony from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Deputy Administrator Heidi

King; Independent Monitor of Takata and the Coordinated Remedy Program John Buretta; Independent Testing Coalition Project Director David Kelly; Key Safety Systems Senior Vice President and CFO Joe Perkins; Honda North America Executive Vice President Rick Schostek; and Ford Motor Company Automotive Safety Office Global Director Desi Ujkashevic.

**US House:** Tuesday, Mar. 20 Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill – Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill, hosted by Congressional Brain Injury Task Force co-chairs Democratic Rep. Bill Pascrell and Republican Rep. Thomas Rooney, and featuring a brain injury awareness day fair, congressional briefing, and reception.

9:00 AM First annual HBCU STEAM Day of Action on Capitol Hill – Bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) Caucus host first annual HBCU STEAM Day of Action on Capitol Hill, bringing HBCU presidents and administrators and industry leaders to Capitol Hill to meet Members of Congress and senior staff from both parties and in both chambers to advocate for bipartisan priorities impacting HBCUs and increased efforts to diversify the workforce. Speakers include Republican Rep. Will Hurd \* Open press events held in Rm 188, Russell Senate Office Bldg. and Rm 902, Hart Senate Office Bldg..

9:30 AM Commerce Secretary Ross testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'FY19 Budget Hearing – Department of Commerce', with testimony from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross

9:30 AM HUD Secretary Carson testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'FY19 Budget – Department of Housing and Urban Development', with testimony from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson..

9:45 AM 'Redistricting Revolution in the Courts: Impact on Congress' Common Cause Congressional briefing – 'Redistricting Revolution in the Courts: Impact on Congress' Common Cause redistricting panel briefing on Capitol Hill, discussing ongoing redistricting litigation in multiple states, the U.S. Supreme Court cases 'Benisek v. Lamone' and 'Gill v. Whitford', other states that have been subject to redistricting litigation, and how this could all affect Congressional districts in 2018 and beyond. Participants include bipartisan Reps. Alan Lowenthal and Rod Blum, 'Common Cause v. Rucho' lead attorney Emmet Bondurant (who previously argued 'Wesberry v. Sanders' (1964)), and Common Cause Pennsylvania executive director Micah Sims

10:00 AM Congressional Black Caucus holds hearing-style briefing on FBI report on 'Black Identity Extremism' – Congressional Black Caucus Task Force on Foreign Affairs and National Security holds hearing-style briefing on 'Black Identity Extremism', examining and investigating the 2017 FBI report that asserted that 'Black Identity Extremists' are likely

motivated to target law enforcement officers, led by Caucus Members including Democratic Reps. Karen Bass and Marc Veasey, and featuring University of Southern California's Errol Southern, attorney activist Nana Gyamfi, and former FBI agent Mike German.

10:00 AM Senior House Dems at 'Puerto Rico: Six Months After Maria Roundtable Discussion' – Democratic Rep. Nydia Velazquez holds 'Puerto Rico: Six Months After Maria Roundtable Discussion', bringing together lawmakers and stakeholders for to discuss the status of recovery efforts and policy priorities exactly six months after Hurricane Maria made landfall on the island. Other participants include House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, and Democratic Caucus Chair Joe Crowley, other Members of Congress, Center for Economic and Policy Research's Mark Weisbrot, Boston Scientific-Dorado's Paul Martin, Civic Nation's Eric Waldo, 100 Resilient Cities' Isabel Beltran, and Blue Morpho Creative's Manuel Romero.

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on preventable violence – Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Preventable Violence in America: An Examination of Law Enforcement Information Sharing and Misguided Public Policy'.

10:00 AM Education Secretary DeVos testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'FY19 Budget – Department of Education', with testimony from Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'19 NNSA budget – Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'FY19 Budget – National Nuclear Security Administration', with testimony from Under Secretary of Commerce for National Security and National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator Lisa Gordon-Hagerty; NNSA Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Phil Calbos, Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Dave Huizenga; and Office of Naval Reactors' Adm. James Caldwell.

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on 'expanding affordable health care options' – Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on 'Expanding Affordable Health Care Options: Examining the Department of Labor's Proposed Rule on Association Health Plans', with testimony from Small Business Majority founder and CEO John Arensmeyer; CC Law & Policy Principal and sole shareholder Christopher Condeluci; McGrew Real Estate CEO Michael McGrew (on behalf of National Association of REALTORS); and FASTSIGNS International CEO Catherine Monson (on behalf of International Franchise Association).

10:00 AM DEA chief testifies to House Commerce subcommittee on the opioid epidemic – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'The Drug Enforcement Administration's Role in Combating the Opioid

Epidemic', with testimony from DEA Acting Administrator Robert Patterson.

10:00 AM Service secretaries testify to House Armed Services Committee – Hearing on 'Assessing the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request and Acquisition Reform Progress', with testimony from Secretary of the Army Mark Esper; Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer; and Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson.

10:15 AM Hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2019 Nuclear Regulatory Commission Budget'..

10:30 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on FY'19 budget for Indian affairs and insular areas – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Policy Priorities for the Administration's FY 2019 Budget for Indian Affairs and Insular Areas'.

10:30 AM Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing.

10:30 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on impacts of the 2017 wildfires – Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Impacts of the 2017 Wildfires in the United States', with testimony from Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX Administrator Robert Fenton Jr.; International Association of Fire Chiefs President and Chairman of the Board Thomas Jenkins; California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilarducci; and Stanislaus County, CA, Deputy Fire Warden and Deputy Director of Emergency Services Eric Holly.

12:00 PM House debates Alleviating Stress Test Burdens to Help Investors Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 4566 – Alleviating Stress Test Burdens to Help Investors Act'.

12:00 PM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing.

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on Legislative Hearing on HR 5210, HR 2584 Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:00 PM FL Hearing 1324 Longworth House Office Building Add to my calendar LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON: 1) H.R. 5210 (Rep. Michael K. Simpson), To establish the National Park Restoration Fund, and for other purposes. 2) H.R. 2584 (Rep. Will Hurd), To amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes. "National Park Service Legacy Act of 2017." Witnesses: Republican Reps. Michael Simpson and Will Hurd; National Parks Service Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith; Pew Charitable Trusts Director of Restore America's Parks Marcia Argust; Center for American Progress Senior Fellow Matt Lee-Ashley; and Motorcycle Industry Council Federal Affairs Manager Callie Hoyt.

2:00 PM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on



apprenticeships – Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee hearing on ‘Workforce Development: Advancing Apprenticeships for Small Business’, with testimony from Machine Specialties Vice President for Human Resources and Marketing Tammy Simmons; College of the Canyons Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development Jeffrey Forrest; Tooling U-SME Vice President Jeannine Kunz; and LaunchCode Executive Director Jeff Mazur.

2:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on covered business method patents – Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on ‘Assessing the Effectiveness of the Transitional Program for Covered Business Method Patents’, with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Natural Resources and Environment John Neumann; TD Ameritrade Chief Privacy Officer and Deputy General Counsel David Hale; and BSA, The Software Alliance Vice President for Global Policy Aaron Cooper.

2:00 PM House Government Reform / Homeland Security subcommittees joint hearing on CDM – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee and House Committee on Homeland Security Information Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘CDM: Government Perspectives on Security and Modernization’.

2:00 PM House Dems host forum on school safety – House Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, and fellow Democratic Reps. Ted Deutch and Elizabeth Esty host forum to examine issues of school climate, school safety, and violence prevention, with experts and practitioners discussing research and best practices around promoting improved school climate through evidence-based preventative measures. Panelists include Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos (invited), Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School teacher and shooting survivor Stacey Lippel, University of Virginia Professor of Education Dr Dewey Cornell, and Chapin High School Principal Dr.. Akil Ross Sr. Committee Chairman Virginia Foxx and other House Republicans have also been invited to attend.

2:00 PM House Veterans Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee legislative hearing on legislation including a draft bill entitled ‘VA Home Loan Improvement Act of 2018’.

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on terrorism, drug trafficking, and organized crime – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on ‘Exploring the Financial Nexus of Terrorism, Drug Trafficking, and Organized Crime’, with testimony from Center for a Secure Free Society Executive Director Joseph Humire; Pen-Link Executive Director of Government Relations Derek Maltz; National Defense University William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies Professor of the Practice of National Security Affairs Celina Realuyo; and George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government Professor

Dr. Louise Shelley..

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on submarine construction – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on ‘Submarine Industrial Base: Options for Construction’, with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition James Geurts; Department of the Navy Program Executive Officer for Submarines Rear Adm. Michael Jabaley; and U.S. Navy Undersea Warfare Division (OPNAV 97) Director Rear Adm. John Tammen Jr.

2:00 PM Creative Rights Caucus panel discussion with cast and crew of ‘The Americans’ – Creative Rights Caucus Co-Chairs Reps Judy Chu and Doug Collins host ‘Script to Screen’ conversation and panel discussion with the cast and crew of FX’s ‘The Americans’, to highlight the importance of copyright protection and the 5.5 million workers in the creative industries. Participants include FX Networks and FX Productions CEO John Landgraf, Creator and Executive Producer/Writer/Co-Showrunner Joe Weisberg, Executive Producer/Writer/Co-Showrunner Joel Fields, Costume Designer Katie Irish, and actors Keri Russell, Matthew Rhys, Noah Emmerich and Holly Taylor.

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on ‘Navy Readiness Posture’ – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on ‘Navy Readiness Posture’, with testimony from Chief of Navy Reserve and Navy Reserve Force Commander Vice Adm. Luke McCollum; and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Integration of Capabilities and Resources (N8) Vice Adm. Bill Lescher, and Deputy Chief for Operations, Plans and Strategy (N3/N5) Vice Adm. Woody Lewis.

**Other:** 8:00 AM APTA Legislative Conference concludes – American Public Transportation Association Legislative Conference concludes with Members of Congress Breakfast. Conference speakers today include Democratic Sen. Jack Reed and bipartisan Reps. Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio, Rodney Davis, and Sam Graves. Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.apta.com/>  
[https://twitter.com/APTA\\_info](https://twitter.com/APTA_info).

8:30 AM National Low Income Housing Coalition annual conference continues – Housing Policy Forum 2018, ‘Building the Movement’ – annual conference continues, hosted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition featuring affordable housing advocates and practitioners, movement leaders, policy experts, researchers, govt officials, and low income residents. Day two speakers include Democratic Sens. Cory Booker and Sherrod Brown, who helps launch the ‘Opportunity Starts at Home’ campaign, and The Cook Political Report Editor and Publisher Charlie Cook  
\* Agenda today includes NLIHC Leadership Awards Reception, honoring Republican Sen. Susan Collins, ‘Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City’ Author Matthew Desmond, and former National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development Executive Director Lisa Hasegawa. Location: Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave NW, Washi.

9:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-chairs Reps. Randy Hultgren and James McGovern speak at USIP – ‘Human Rights – The Foundation for Peace’ U.S. Institute of Peace bipartisan congressional dialogue, with Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-chairs Reps. Randy Hultgren and James McGovern discussing their shared approach to addressing ‘the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya in Burma (aka Myanmar), the destructive Syrian armed conflict, and the plight of ethnic and religious minorities throughout the Middle East and in Asia’, along with their joint efforts to incorporate human rights into U.S. policies with the aim of fostering international stability and peace. Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org) [#BipartisanUSIP](https://twitter.com/USIP).

9:00 AM The Washington Post hosts discussion on artificial intelligence – The Washington Post hosts ‘Transformers: Artificial Intelligence’ live news event, focused on technological advances ‘poised to reshape the way we live and work’, including how policymakers and the business community are working to pave the way for this new technology, the effect artificial intelligence will have on the workplace and how to ensure the technology will be used responsibly in the future. Speakers include Republican Sen. Todd Young, Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell, IBM AI and IBM Q Vice President Dario Gil, Microsoft Business Development Executive Vice President Peggy Johnson, Salesforce Strategic Planning Senior Vice President Peter Schwartz, and University of Southern California Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society Founding Co-Director Milind Tambe. Location: The Washington Post, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>.

9:30 AM CIS panel discussion on the Refugee Resettlement Program – ‘Should States Be Able to Opt Out of the Refugee Resettlement Program?’ Center for Immigration Studies panel discussion, focusing on the Program and its impact on states and localities. Speakers include St. Cloud, MN, Councilman Jeff Johnson, Thomas More Law Center President and Chief Counsel Richard Thompson, and CIS Fellow Bon Barnett. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.cis.org/> <https://twitter.com/wwwCISorg>.

12:00 PM GOP Rep. Doug Collins speaks at TPI event on music licensing reform – ‘Music Licensing – Proposals for Reform’ Technology Policy Institute event, on the legislative and regulatory issues surrounding music licensing. Includes opening remarks from Republican Rep. Doug Collins and panel discussion with Digital Media Association CEO Chris Harrison, National Music Publishers’ Association President and CEO David Israelite, Berklee College of Music Vice President of Innovation and Strategy Panos Panay, and GiantSteps Media Technology Strategies founder Bill Rosenblatt. Location: Top of the Hill Banquet & Conference Center, 1 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC <http://techpolicyinstitute.org/> <https://twitter.com/techpolicyinst>.

12:30 PM American Association of Port Authorities Spring Conference

– American Association of Port Authorities Spring Conference. Day one speakers include Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. David MacNaughton and Hackett Associates Director Paul Bingham. Location: The Westin Washington, DC City Center, 1400 M Street Northwest, Washington, DC [www.aapa-ports.org](http://www.aapa-ports.org) [https://twitter.com/AAPA\\_Seaports](https://twitter.com/AAPA_Seaports).

1:00 PM Agriculture Secretary Perdue at National Ag Day event – ‘The Consumer, the Farmer and Sustainability’ National Ag Day event, sponsored by AAFA, NAFB, and USFRA. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue honors essay contest winner, while panel features American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall, John Deere Outstanding Young Farmers Mark and Angie Ulness, Ohio State University (USFRA Face of Farming & Ranching) Associate Professor Dr. Emily Buck, John Deere Director of Advanced Technology John Teeple, and Culver’s Nutrition and Quality Assurance Manager Sarah Hendren. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC [www.aaea.org](http://www.aaea.org) [https://twitter.com/AAEA\\_Economics](https://twitter.com/AAEA_Economics).

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

*Jimmy Kimmel:* “And before I share these, I want to say, no two tweets have ever summed up a presidency quite like these two. Okay? Number one, ‘Sean Hannity on Fox & Friends now. Great 8:00am.’ And about an hour later, ‘Total witch hunt with massive conflicts of interest.’ Is it possible that our President is a bot? Because there’s no rhyme or reason for any of this. If anyone you knew tweeted that, you’d text them and say, ‘Hey, I think your account got hacked because that didn’t...”

*Jimmy Kimmel:* “Sources close to Donald Trump says he feels newly emboldened to ignore the advice of those around him and just say what he really feels. Does that mean up until now he was holding back?”

*Jimmy Kimmel:* “Because he was calling Kim Jong-un ‘Little Rocket Man’ and bragging about the size of his nuclear button. Was that the old and more judicious Donald Trump that we will miss one day? I hope not.”

*Jimmy Kimmel:* “Meanwhile, congratulations to Trump’s BFF Vladimir Putin, who was elected yesterday for his fourth term as President of Russia. He won in a landslide. His opponents coincidentally died in a landslide. All of them.”

*Jimmy Kimmel:* “There are widespread reports of ballot box stuffing in Russia, some of which was caught on surveillance cameras. This guy is

shoving ballots in there like he's voting on 'American idol' or something. Here's another one. And nobody seems to like notice or care ... He was like the David Blaine of voter fraud. He just kept pulling envelopes out of his pocket and dropping them in."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "So there you have it. Vladimir Putin won. And now he can focus on his next election. Ours."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Are you guys enjoying March Madness? Speaking of madness, Donald Trump. We're on the brink of another crisis because it really feels like Trump is gearing up to fire Special Counsel and 'Guy Wondering How Much He'll Get For His Book Deal' Robert Mueller."

**Stephen Colbert:** "This Saturday, Trump's attorney...John Dowd called for 'the immediate shutdown of the special counsel probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election.' Dowd made the demand in a email sent to a reporter that was written in purple comic sans."

**Stephen Colbert:** "[What] really worries us, folks, is that the next day Trump tweeted, 'Why does the Mueller team have 13 hardened Democrats, some big crooked Hillary supporters, and zero Republicans? Another Dem recently added. Does anyone think this is fair? And yet, there is no collusion!' Yes, 'hardened Democrats.' You don't want to mess with them. They'll walk right up to an old lady and then stick her with a Social Security check."

**Stephen Colbert:** "And this is significant because until now, Trump had never attacked Mueller by name in a tweet, which is a moment so significant it deserves it's own film 'Call Muell By Your Name'. I hear there's a hot impeachment scene."

**Stephen Colbert:** "And we know Trump is in a firing mood, because this weekend former FBI Deputy Director and extra from 'Apollo 13' Andrew McCabe was fired just two days before his retirement! What? No! No! No! No! Wrong! If you want to get rid of a cop two days before his retirement, you don't fire him. You send him out on one last job with a rookie."

**Stephen Colbert:** "McCabe had been under investigation by the inspector general of the FBI, so to avoid looking like he's trying to shut down the

Russia investigation, all Trump had to do was not dance on McCabe's grave. So he tweeted, 'Andrew McCabe fired, a great day for the hard-working men and women of the FBI a great day for democracy. Sanctimonious James Comey was his boss and made McCabe look like a choirboy. He knew all about the lies and corruption going on at the highest levels of the FBI!' And Mr. Trump knows a lot about choir boys. Everyone who works for him is going to sing."

**Stephen Colbert:** "This is a sitting president gloating about firing a respected, career FBI official, and smearing another whose firing led to the appointment of the special counsel. And none of that shocks me as much as the fact that he spelled 'sanctimonious' correctly."

**Stephen Colbert:** "And he wasn't done: 'The fake news is beside themselves that McCabe was caught, called out and fired. How many hundreds of thousands of dollars was given to wife's campaign by Crooked H, friend, Terry M, who was also under investigation? How many lies? How many leaks? Comey knew it all, and much more!' That's a damning allegation. Also a great blurb for Comey's new book: 'Comey Knew It All and Much More!'"

**Stephen Colbert:** "And Comey wasn't the only one to write things down. Because right after he was fired, we learned McCabe kept notes about conversations with Trump and gave them to Mueller. And if you think the notes are incriminating, wait until you see the doodles."

**James Cordon:** "Once again, President Trump spent his entire weekend tweeting like a madman about the ongoing Russia investigation and even called out the head of the investigation Robert Mueller saying, 'The Mueller probe should never have been started in that there was no collusion and there was no crime. It was based on fraudulent activities and a fake dossier paid for by crooked Hillary and the DNC, witch-hunt!' Now let's see. Wildly unrestrained, check. Semi-coherent, check. Tweet that ends in all caps, check. Guys, it's official. Donald Trump is on spring break!"

**James Cordon:** "Now this is the first time Trump has attacked Mueller by name. So you know what that means: It means that after months of practice, Trump's finally learned how to spell Mueller."

**James Cordon:** "This over the weekend: Vladimir Putin won a fourth term as

President of Russia. It's Putin's first presidential election since the 2016 American election."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "In Washington, the White House celebrated [St. Patrick's Day] by dyeing the fountain on the South Lawn green, which backfired when the President yelled 'Mountain Dew!' and dove right in."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "It just came out, you guys, that Trump's Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, was on the toilet when he found out Trump fired him on Twitter. Then Trump said, 'Well, what a coincidence. I was on the toilet when I tweeted that.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Tillerson was on the toilet when he was fired, which explains why Jeff Sessions and Betsy DeVos haven't used the bathroom in six months."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Oh, and the Russian presidential election was this weekend. And I saw that – yeah, Putin won. To get people to vote, Russian officials were offering prizes like Apple watches. Sounds fun until you open the box with your Apple watch and it's still attached to a hand."

**Seth Meyers:** "Russian President Vladimir Putin was elected yesterday to his fourth term in office. Putin handily beat his closest rival, a poisoned corpse."

**Seth Meyers:** "After President Trump attacked special counsel Robert Mueller in the Russia investigation on Twitter, Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy said, 'When you are innocent, act like it.' Said Trump, 'I'll keep that I mind if I'm ever innocent.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "A spokesperson for House Speaker Paul Ryan said yesterday that Special Counsel Robert Mueller should be able to do his job. What a brave stance from the spokesperson for the Speaker of the House. Why does a speaker have a spokesperson? You're the speaker. That's like someone from Geico saying the lizard believes he can save you 15 percent on car insurance. I want to hear it from the lizard."

**Seth Meyers:** "Former FBI Director James Comey's memoir has already

topped Amazon's list of bestsellers, almost a month ahead of its release due to preorders. Or you can find it in your local bookstore blocking Hillary Clinton's book."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.



**To:** RKZ [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Downey Magallanes  
**Sent:** 2018-03-20T15:28:25-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: PJM: FirstEnergy coal plant closure won't threaten grid  
**Received:** 2018-03-20T15:29:27-04:00

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard <[politicoemail@politicopro.com](mailto:politicoemail@politicopro.com)>  
**Date:** March 20, 2018 at 1:26:52 PM MDT  
**To:** <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** **PJM: FirstEnergy coal plant closure won't threaten grid**  
**Reply-To:** POLITICO subscriptions <[reply-fe9113747562067873-1158430\\_HTML-820719151-1376319-0@politicoemail.com](mailto:reply-fe9113747562067873-1158430_HTML-820719151-1376319-0@politicoemail.com)>

By Eric Wolff

03/20/2018 03:25 PM EDT

PJM Interconnection gave the green light for FirstEnergy to retire a 1,278 MW coal-fired power plant in West Virginia, saying the shutdown wouldn't hurt the power network's reliability.

The analysis report was not made public, but a PJM spokesman said the operator did not identify any impacts to the grid from the closure of the two generating units at Pleasants Power Station.

Bob Murray, whose coal company Murrery Energy supplies the plant, had pressed the Department of Energy to prevent its closure by using its emergency authority to order it to run.

In January, FERC blocked an attempt by FirstEnergy Corp. subsidiary Allegheny Energy Supply to sell the plant Mon Power, a regulated FirstEnergy subsidiary. The sequence of public policy defeats led the company to announce its retirement.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The plant is slated to close on Jan. 1.

*To view online:*

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2018/03/pjm-firstenergy-coal-plant-closure-wont-threaten-grid-851073>

Yes, very

Somewhat

Neutral

Not really

Not at all

**You received this POLITICO Pro content because your customized settings include:  
Energy: Regulations. To change your alert settings, please go to  
<https://www.politicopro.com/settings>**

---

This email was sent to [downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov) by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

---

**To:** Zinke Ryan[[cdr06@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cdr06@ios.doi.gov)]  
**Cc:** ryanzinke [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Caroline Boulton  
**Sent:** 2018-03-21T08:30:54-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 21, 2018  
**Received:** 2018-03-21T08:31:04-04:00

Just in case it didn't come through today.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** March 21, 2018 at 5:58:46 AM EDT  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018 6:00 AM EDT**

## **Today's Table Of Contents**

---

### **DOI In The News**

- Wisconsin Public Radio: US Interior Secretary Zinke Presents \$35M In Grants To Wisconsin.
- WITI-TV Milwaukee: US Sec. Ryan Zinke Visits Wisconsin, Talks About Combating Opioid Abuse On Reservations.
- Reuters: Drillers Snap Up Federal Leases Near Utah's Wilderness Monuments.
- The Hill: Employee Of Liberal Activist Group Charged With Assaulting Zinke Staffer.
- Billings (MT) Gazette: Controversial Central Montana Land Exchange Still Dead Despite Reports To The Contrary.
- Wildfire Today: Legislation Would Provide "Holy Grail" For Wildland Firefighters.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- 'Acting' Trump Administration Officials Present Indian Budget Plans.
- Tribes Cite Progress Since Passage Of Violence Against Women Act.
- 27 Navajo Criminal Investigators To Cover 27K Miles.
- Bill Would End Challenge To Mashpee Tribe's Reservation Land Decision.

### **Bureau Of Indian Education**

- DOI Fights Tribes' Bid For Win In Suit Over Education Plan.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Pueblo (CO) Chieftain: Concerns Raised About Plans To Drill For Oil, Gas In San Luis Valley.
- Montana Standard: Butte BLM Eyes New Trail System.
- Durango (CO) Herald: Illegal Trail Building A Vexing Problem For Public Land Managers.
- Helena (MT) Independent Record: Public Gains Access To 3,400 More Acres In Southwestern Montana After Road Easement.

#### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- US Offshore Industry Downplays Importance Of 'Bellwether' Gulf Sale.
- Judge Says Groups Can Sue To Keep Arctic, Atlantic Drill Ban.
- Offshore Drilling Meeting Battles Clock, Weather.
- Drilling Ban Could Be Headed To Ballot.
- Offshore Energy Production Too Risky For South Carolina, Governor Says.

#### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- Boise River Flows Set To Increase Wednesday.

#### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

- Safety Inspectors To Spend More Time On Offshore Drilling Platforms.
- Crane Accidents Prompt Surprise Offshore Inspections.

#### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Associated Press: Groups Sue Over Decision To Lift US Ban On Elephant Trophies.
- Washington Post: Wyoming Considers Grizzly Hunt After Trump Team Took Bear Off Endangered List.
- KDRV-TV Medford (OR): Captive-Raised Endangered Suckers Released Into The Wild.

#### **National Park Service**

- Cronkite News: House Panel Weighs Plans To Close \$11.6 Billion Parks Repair Backlog.
- New Orleans Times-Picayune: \$500K Federal Grant Will Help Preserve Civil Rights Icon's Bogalusa Home.
- Cleveland Plain Dealer: Brecksville Dam Demolition Project Set To Begin In Fall After Environmental OK.
- Ste. Genevieve (MO) Herald: Historic Re-Creation: Renovated Arch Museum Will Feature Creole-Style House.
- Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald: Moose, Elk Research Continues In Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Associated Press: New Motors Installed In Carlsbad Caverns' Main Elevators.
- Associated Press: Review Expands Montpelier Historic District, Adds New Sites.

#### **US Geological Survey**

- Fox News: California Mudslides: Where And Why They Happen.

#### **Opinion Pieces**

- Gazette Opinion: Zinke's Looking More Like D.C., Less Like Montana.
- Ramping Up Risk In The Gulf Of Mexico.
- Additional Reading.

**Top National News**

- Washington Post: Trump Congratulates Putin On His Reelection, Says He May Soon Meet With Him.
- Bloomberg News: Trump, Saudi Prince Tout Commercial Ties, Common Strategic Interests.
- Bloomberg News: Trump Plans To Impose Tariffs, Trade Restrictions On China As Soon As This Week.
- Reuters: Media Analyses: Lawmakers Near Spending Deal, But "Divisive Issues" Remain.
- USA Today: Armed Officer Kills School Shooter In Maryland, Avoids Potential Massacre.

**Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Trump's Bluster On The Opioid Epidemic."
- Washington Post.
  - "DHS Keeps Separating Kids From Their Parents – But Officials Won't Say Why Or How Often."
  - "Obamacare's Fate Hinges On A Bipartisan Vote That May Never Come."
  - "A D.C. Leader's Anti-Semitic Remarks Are Only Part Of The Problem."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Tackling China's Protectionism."
  - "Abortion Over ObamaCare."
  - "A GOP Right-To-Try Fumble."

**Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

**Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

**Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

**DOI In The News**

---

**US Interior Secretary Zinke Presents \$35M In Grants To Wisconsin.**

Wisconsin Public Radio (3/20, Quirnbach) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "presented almost \$35 million in conservation and outdoor recreation grants to Wisconsin on Tuesday at the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area, and some of that money is aimed at boosting interest in hunting amid a declining number of hunters." Zinke handed "out the state's annual grants from two national programs funded by excise taxes paid by hunters, anglers and boaters." He said, "We're looking at improving the access on our fish and wildlife assets. A lot of the archery programs, hunting programs, have atrophied and been replaced by other programs; so we're looking at public-private partnerships to bring a lot of those programs back to get the kids out to introduce them to the legacy that was given to us."

WLUK-TV Green Bay, WI (3/20, Peterson) reports that Sanjay Olson, Department of Natural Resources Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Division Administrator, said, "The opportunity to have a secretary come here and actually roll out this year's appropriation. It's really exciting for us, and all of our sportsmen."

Additional coverage was provided by the Racine (WI) Journal Times (3/20), WKOW-TV Madison, WI (3/20), and WSAW-TV Wausau, WI (3/20).

Local TV coverage was provided by  WLUK-TV Green Bay, WI (3/20),  WKOW-TV Madison, WI (3/20), and  WMTV-TV Madison, WI (3/20).

***Florida Receives Large Grants From Hunting, Fishing Licenses.*** WTXL-TV Tallahassee, FL (3/20) reports that the Interior Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "announced a disbursement of more than \$26 million in grants to the state of Florida." Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan awarded the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson grants. Sheehan said, "Three quarters of those dollars come from the federal government and 25 percent comes from the state. And then there are certain terms of the grants that they are to be used for. So they need to be used for wild life conservation on Pittman-Robinson, for example they can't be used for law enforcement or other sorts of things. It's really dollars to hit the ground. Dollars to run these wildlife management areas."

Also reporting are WFSU-FM Tallahassee (FL) Tallahassee, FL (3/20, Dailey), and WJCT-FM Jacksonville (FL) Jacksonville, FL (3/20, Dailey).

***Wyoming Receives \$19 Million For Sportsmen & Conservation.*** KPVI-TV Idaho Falls, ID (3/20) reports that the Interior Department "announced \$19,191,105 in funding to Wyoming to support critical state conservation and outdoor recreation projects." Virgil Moore, President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Director of Idaho Fish and Game, said, "Revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts provides funding to states to protect and conserve our nation's fish and wildlife heritage today and for generations to come. This funding mechanism serves as the foundation for fish and wildlife conservation in our country."

***Montana To Receive Millions In Funding For State Wildlife Agencies.***

KULR-TV Billings, MT (3/20, Monte) reports that the Interior Department announced "Montana will receive more than 29 million dollars in funding to support critical state conservation and outdoor recreation projects" from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts.

***Boom: Gun Tax Sends \$33M To Alaska.*** The Alaska Public Radio Network (3/20, Ruskin) reports that the Interior Department "announced Alaska's share of the tax revenues is \$33 million, more than double what the state got just six years ago." Maria Gladziszewski, deputy director of Alaska's Division of Wildlife Conservation, said, "Pittman-Robertson funds account for the majority of our funding, of our division's funding. It is the core funding for wildlife conservation, and it has been for decades."

Additional coverage was provided by KTOO-FM Juneau, AK (3/20, Ruskin).

***Mass To Receive \$11.5 Million For Conservation And Outdoor Recreation.*** WWLP-TV Springfield, MA (3/20, Phillips) reports that the Interior Department "announced \$11,505,547 in funding to Massachusetts for state conservation and outdoor recreation projects" from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration (PRDJ) acts. Additional coverage was provided by the AP (3/21).

***Arkansas Receives \$18.5 Million For Conservation, Recreation Projects.*** KATV-TV Little Rock, AR (3/20) reports that Arkansas is "getting more than \$18.5 million to support its state conservation and outdoor recreation projects" from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration (PRDJ) acts. Additional coverage was provided by KARK-TV Little Rock, AR (3/20).

***Connecticut Getting \$9.4 Million In Federal Conservation Grants.*** The Hartford (CT) Courant (3/20, HLADKY) reports that "Connecticut is getting \$9.4 million as its share of conservation revenues from federal taxes on sporting equipment sales." Chris Collibee, spokesman for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, said, "These federal excise tax receipts, which are required by federal law to be returned to the states, will be used to support those outdoor activities that create multigenerational memories for families across our state."

***New Hampshire Getting \$8.3M For Outdoors Projects.*** The AP (3/20) reports that "New Hampshire is getting \$8.3 million in federal money to support state conservation and outdoor recreation projects." The money "includes \$3.5 million in sport fish restoration funds and nearly \$4.8 million in wildlife restoration funds."

***New York Receives \$28 Million In Funding For Conservation Efforts.*** The Rochester (NY) Democrat & Chronicle (3/20, Roth) reports, that New York was "awarded \$28,682,525 in the annual funding to state wildlife agencies from revenue generated by the historic Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts."

***Missouri Gets \$28M For Conservation, Outdoor Recreation.*** The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (3/20, Crum) reports that the Interior Department "announced \$28.8 million in funding to Missouri to support critical state conservation and outdoor recreation projects" from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts. Additional coverage was provided by KOLR-TV Springfield, MO (3/20, Crum).

***NC Gets \$31 Million For Conservation, Outdoor Recreation Projects.*** WWAY-TV Wilmington, NC (3/20) reports that the Interior Department announced North Carolina is getting "\$31,683,236 from the \$1.1 billion in annual national funding to state wildlife agencies from revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration (PRDJ) acts."

***Guam Gets \$2.5M For Conservation, Recreation.*** The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (3/21, Kotwal) reports that Guam will receive \$2.5 million from the

Interior Department "to support state conservation and outdoor recreation projects" from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts. Guam Del. Madeleine Bordallo, who's running for re-election, said in a news release, "We have a responsibility to care for and preserve our natural resources and these federal funds will help Guam agencies do just that. I am pleased that Secretary Zinke released \$2.5 million in congressionally-authorized funds for support conservation and outdoor recreation projects on our island."

***U.S. Virgin Islands Receives \$2 Million For Sportsmen & Conservation.***

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (3/20) reports that the Interior Department "announced \$2,501,621 in funding to the U.S. Virgin Islands to support critical state conservation and outdoor recreation projects." The money is "part of \$1.1 billion in annual national funding going to state wildlife agencies from revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration (PRDJ) acts." The article notes that "USVI apportionments include \$1,173,058 in Sport Fish Restoration funds and \$1,328,563 in Wildlife Restoration funds."

***Decline In Hunters Threatens How U.S. Pays For Conservation.*** [NPR](#)

(3/20, Rott) reports that "a new survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows that today, only about 5 percent of Americans, 16 years old and older, actually hunt." That number is "half of what it was 50 years ago and the decline is expected to accelerate over the next decade."

Meanwhile, "other wildlife-centered activities, like birdwatching, hiking and photography, are rapidly growing, as American society and attitudes towards wildlife change." The change "is being welcomed by some who morally oppose the sport, but it's also leading to a crisis," since "state wildlife agencies and the country's wildlife conservation system are heavily dependent on sportsmen for funding."

**US Sec. Ryan Zinke Visits Wisconsin, Talks About Combating Opioid Abuse On Reservations.**

[WITI-TV](#) Milwaukee (3/20, Chronis) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke traveled to the Oneida Indian Reservation on Tuesday "to meet with tribal leaders and joining forces to fight the opioid crisis." Zinke said, "We have a task force that we're coordinating with the tribes, with the tribal police to go after the heart of the issue, which is the drug dealers." He "said resources will be provided from the U.S. Department of the Interior to help the sovereign nation target those dealers."

[WLUK-TV](#) Green Bay, WI (3/20) reports that "tribal members noted the importance of education and treatment of opioid related issues." Currently, "the tribe receives approximately \$1 million from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to administer opioid programs."

Local TV coverage was provided by [WITI-TV](#) Milwaukee (3/20).

**Drillers Snap Up Federal Leases Near Utah's Wilderness Monuments.**

[Reuters](#) (3/20, Volcovici) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on



Tuesday "auctioned off more than 51,000 acres (21,000 hectares) in southeastern Utah for oil and gas development, a sign of strong industry demand in a region conservationists have vowed to protect." The lease sale included land "near the former boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument, whose size was scaled back by the Trump administration last year, as well as the Hovenweep and Canyons of the Ancients monuments, according to the bureau." According to the article, "results of the online auction, posted on Tuesday afternoon, showed that all 43 parcels up for sale received winning bids, which averaged \$28.68 per acre and ranged between \$2 and \$93 per acre." The auction generated \$1.56 million, according to the BLM.

The Washington Post (3/20, Eilperin) reports that the BLM "disregarded a request by the National Park Service that it hold off leasing 17,000 acres of public land in Utah on Tuesday because of concerns that drilling there could harm Hovenweep National Monument's views and air, groundwater and sound quality." According to an Oct. 23 letter, the NPS "outlined concerns about future oil and gas drilling activities on not just Hovenweep, but also three other sites under its jurisdiction in southern Utah: Arches and Canyonlands national parks and Natural Bridges National Monument." Kate Cannon, superintendent of the Park Service's Southeast Utah Group, wrote, "'The visiting public expects high-quality experiences across federal land, and we are concerned that continuing to offer parcels for oil and gas exploration and development in proximity to our parks will be detrimental' to those experiences."

The Deseret (UT) News (3/20, O'Donoghue) reports that the lease sale sparked "protest by Native American tribal representatives and public lands advocates." According to the article, "a group of people including Sierra Club's national director Michael Brune and leaders of Salt Lake City-based Utah Dine Bikeyah, a Native American tribal advocacy group, spoke outside the downtown BLM offices against the auction." Critics claim "too many of the parcels are in areas rich with cultural artifacts and too close to the former boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument, Hovenweep National Monument straddling the Utah-Colorado border, and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado."

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (3/20, Maffly) reports that "Utah state officials endorsed Tuesday's sale." Utah's public lands policy director Kathleen Clarke wrote in the state's official comments, "Responsible oil and gas development is critically important to the economy of southeastern Utah and the state as a whole, and the successful lease sale of all 29 parcels included in the [environmental assessment] will have a tremendous impact towards creating jobs in the region and lowering administrative obstacles to sustainable development."

Also reporting are Reuters (3/20, Volcovici), Oil Price (3/20, Paraskova), KUTV-TV Salt Lake City Salt Lake City (3/20, Weaver), KSTU-TV Salt Lake City Salt Lake City (3/20, Roth), and KUER-FM Salt Lake City Salt Lake City (3/20, Fahys).

### **Employee Of Liberal Activist Group Charged With Assaulting Zinke Staffer.**

The Hill (3/20, Manchester) reports that "an operative for American Bridge 21st Century, a pro-Democrat political action committee, has been charged with assaulting a staffer working for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." Wilfred Stark was "charged with simple assault after he allegedly approached Zinke, yelling at him, outside of a hearing." According to police report, "Stark then 'used his full body to push' Zinke's spokeswoman, Heather Swift, as she moved to leave the room."

Also reporting are CNN (3/20, Wallace, Marsh, Summers) and Townhall (3/20, Vespa).

### **Controversial Central Montana Land Exchange Still Dead Despite Reports To The Contrary.**

The Billings (MT) Gazette (3/20, French) reports that "there's no proposal to revive a controversial land exchange between two billionaire Montana landowners and the Bureau of Land Management, despite a recent news story that said Farris Wilks had met with Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke in September." Heather Swift, Zinke's press secretary, said, "There is obviously a lot of checkerboard land in Montana and across the West. The Secretary is interested in getting access to our public land, especially prime hunting and recreation areas, and is looking at everything from easements to swaps."

### **Legislation Would Provide "Holy Grail" For Wildland Firefighters.**

Wildfire Today (3/20, Gabbert) reports that Sens. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Cory Gardner (R-CO) are "co-sponsoring a bill that would enhance the safety and situational awareness of wildland firefighters." Senate Bill 2290 would require the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to jointly develop and operate "a tracking system to remotely locate the positions of fire resources assigned to Federal Type 1 Wildland Fire Incident Management Teams". A complimentary requirement in the legislation is "unmanned aircraft systems to [supply] real-time maps, detect spot fires, assess fire behavior, develop tactical and strategic firefighting plans, position fire resources, and enhance firefighter safety".

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

#### **'Acting' Trump Administration Officials Present Indian Budget Plans.**

The Nation Sun News (3/20) reports that "the leadership void within the Trump administration is again on display as lawmakers consider the budgets for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service." Though President Trump "announced nominations for both agencies last fall, both remain without Senate-confirmed leaders more than a year into his tenure." As a result, "two 'acting' officials will present the BIA and IHS budgets to Congress on Tuesday morning." John Tahsuda, the acting

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Michael Weahkee, the acting director of the IHS, will testify "before the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs about their fiscal year 2019 priorities."

### **Tribes Cite Progress Since Passage Of Violence Against Women Act.**

The Nation Sun News (3/20, Abourezk) reports that the National Congress of American Indians on Tuesday published a report examining "the five-year impact of a federal law designed to give tribes the ability to prosecute non-Indian perpetrators of domestic or dating violence against non-Indian victims on tribal lands." NCAI "released the report in conjunction with a Monday hearing by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, which is currently considering reauthorizing" the Violence Against Women Act. NCAI President Jefferson Keel said, "The success of VAWA 2013 demonstrates that tribes can and will provide effective justice to their communities, and fair process to all those who appear in tribal courts."

### **27 Navajo Criminal Investigators To Cover 27K Miles.**

The AP (3/21, Volkert) reports that "on the Navajo Nation...most crimes or 90 percent of the cases – are related to drug or alcohol abuse, and the top cases in terms of volume include aggravated assault and sexual assault." The AP says the Navajo Department of Criminal Investigations' "task is monumental, considering there are only 27 criminal investigators covering a population of about 300,000 on a landmass as large as West Virginia." Investigator Dale West says "it's a monumental task...that depends on strong collaborations from partners such as FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office." West says he "takes the recent visit of FBI Director Christopher Wray as a testament to that partnership." West is quoted as saying: "It's a big deal. For a director to take notice and recognize the close working relationships that we have was a very positive thing."

### **Bill Would End Challenge To Mashpee Tribe's Reservation Land Decision.**

The Cape Cod (MA) Times (3/20, Stening) reports that "Congress may step in to end an ongoing legal challenge to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's efforts to secure reservation land and build a casino." A bill sponsored by Rep. William Keating and "co-sponsored by a cadre of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, would reaffirm a 2015 decision by the U.S Department of Interior to take 171 acres in Mashpee and 150 acres in Taunton into trust, and establish statutory safeguards against further litigation on the matter in federal court." The bill is "a response to fears that the Interior Department, which is presently deciding if it can maintain the trust agreement under a different legal category than one a federal judge previously rejected, is leaning toward revoking the tribe's right to the reservation land in the coming months, said Keating, who introduced the bill March 9."

### **Bureau Of Indian Education**

**DOI Fights Tribes' Bid For Win In Suit Over Education Plan.**

Law360 (3/20, Lidgett) reports that the Interior Department "asked a federal judge Monday for a win in a lawsuit opposing the department's planned restructuring of support systems for Native American schools in the Great Plains, saying the federal government has meaningfully consulted with the tribes bringing the case for two years despite their claim to the contrary." The department "filed a motion for summary judgment and also opposed motions from Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and intervenor plaintiff Rosebud Sioux Tribe in their suit".

**Bureau Of Land Management**

---

**Concerns Raised About Plans To Drill For Oil, Gas In San Luis Valley.**

The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (3/21, Boczkiewicz) reports that "environmentally concerned residents" from Colorado's San Luis Valley "are alarmed" about proposed oil and gas development near the Great Sands Dunes National Park and Preserve. The Bureau of Land Management plans to auction leases on 11 parcels in western Huerfano County and "set to issue its environmental assessment of the lease sale Thursday, triggering a 15-day period of public review and comment." San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council director Christine Canaly said the group is "putting together a legal team" to challenge the auction, saying, "Oil and gas wells are wrecking havoc on water supply in Colorado," where "water is getting more and more precious." Other environmental groups "also have weighed in with either opposition or concerns."

**Butte BLM Eyes New Trail System.**

The Montana Standard (3/20) reports that "building on the recent success of its popular new trail system in the Copper City area near Three Forks, the Bureau of Land Management is considering doing something similar in the Scratchgravel Hills north of Helena." The Butte Field Office of the BLM is "in the initial stages of identifying issues for a non-motorized recreation project in the Scratchgravel Hills area and invites the public to submit scoping comments." The project would "establish a Recreation Area Management Plan that would guide future development and provide management direction for recreation resources within the Scratchgravel Hills Special Recreation Management Area."

Additional coverage was provided by KTVH-TV Helena, MT (3/20).

**Illegal Trail Building A Vexing Problem For Public Land Managers.**

The Durango (CO) Herald (3/20, Romeo) reports the building of illegal trails in Durango is a continuing "issue for land managers, wildlife officials and trail advocates that can't rein in the longstanding problem." Shannon Borders, spokeswoman for the Bureau of Land Management, said, "We're not talking small connector trails. We're talking miles of illegally built trails. And it's not like there's not a ton of recreational opportunities around

town." Public land agencies "treat the illegally built trails as a criminal case of trespass, but it's tough to find perpetrators."

### **Public Gains Access To 3,400 More Acres In Southwestern Montana After Road Easement.**

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/20) reports that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks "recently purchased a permanent road easement for \$20,000 across private land in the Timber Gulch area of McCartney Mountain, three miles east of Glen." The easement grants access for hunters "to 3,400 acres of Bureau of Land Management ground in Hunting District 340." FWP will "convey the 0.14 miles of existing primitive road to the BLM."

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **US Offshore Industry Downplays Importance Of 'Bellwether' Gulf Sale.**

[Platts](#) (3/20, Rubin) reports that while the Trump Administration "has dubbed Wednesday's Gulf of Mexico oil and natural gas lease sale as the largest in US history," on Tuesday, "US offshore representatives downplayed the market and policy significance of the Gulf lease sale, known as Lease Sale 250." The article says that on March 6, Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke said the sale would be a "bellweather" for the offshore industry, adding, "We'll see what the future of offshore is in comparison to the Permian." However, Christopher Guith, a senior vice president for policy at the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute, "said Zinke meant that the sale Wednesday would be a 'status check' on how the industry views the economics of offshore blocks currently available compared to acreage available onshore."

### **Judge Says Groups Can Sue To Keep Arctic, Atlantic Drill Ban.**

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports that "a lawsuit challenging President Donald Trump's reversal of a ban on petroleum drilling in most of the Arctic Ocean and Atlantic underwater canyons can move forward." Judge Sharon Gleason "ruled Monday in Anchorage, Alaska, that environmental groups can sue to keep the ban in place." Gleason held "the plaintiffs have standing in the case and it can move forward."

### **Offshore Drilling Meeting Battles Clock, Weather.**

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (3/20, Rappaport) recaps the public hearing hosted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in Augusta, ME on Mar. 7 to hear feedback on the Trump Administration's proposed expansion of offshore drilling. The meeting "took place only hours before the onset" of a severe winter storm, but "about 100 people braved the weather in an effort to learn more about" the plan and "express their views." The article outlined opposition to expanded drilling in the state,

including "all four members of the state's congressional delegation," state Attorney General Janet Mills, and the Maine Lobstermen's Association.

### **Drilling Ban Could Be Headed To Ballot.**

WOGX-TV Gainesville, FL (3/20, Turner) reports that Florida's Constitution Revision Commission voted 32-1 Tuesday to advance Proposal 91, a measure that seeks to prohibit oil and gas drilling within about three miles of the East Coast and nine miles of the Gulf of Mexico coast.

Commissioners must take a final vote on the proposed constitutional amendment before it could go on the November ballot. Sen. Tom Lee, a Thonotosassa Republican and member of the commission, suggested adding a definition of drilling to offset the need for a future constitutional rewrite and to possibly allow for future operations done with new technology.

The Anna Maria Island (FL) Sun (3/20, Lane) reports that if the amendment is added to the ballot, adoption would require support from 60 percent of voters. The proposal was "sponsored by CRC member Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch," who said, "We have a chance to make history" and "be the only state in the nation to have this in our state constitution." Thurlow-Lippisch added, "The oil and gas industry claim oil drilling is safe and that it would be good for Florida's economy and job creation. I say, look no further than what happened in Louisiana during the BP oil spill."

### **Offshore Energy Production Too Risky For South Carolina, Governor Says.**

The Anderson (SC) Independent-Mail (3/20, Brown) reports that South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said Monday that the Trump Administration's proposal to expand offshore drilling would threaten the state's tourism sector. At a campaign event in Anderson, McMaster said a major spill, particularly during a hurricane, "is not something that we should take a chance on," because the "damage that it would do to our livelihood would be awful. It is just too dangerous." McMaster also pointed out that "our coast is not industrialized at all, and there is no room for industrialization of our coast." Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Kevin Bryant, who is challenging McMaster, said Tuesday that drilling would not pose a threat and that "we need to explore and see what we have." The article recalls that "a Winthrop Poll conducted last month found 51 percent of state residents and 54 percent of those living in coastal counties oppose drilling for oil off the state's coast."

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Boise River Flows Set To Increase Wednesday.**

KIVI-TV Boise, ID (3/20, Bertel) reports that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation are "increasing flows of the Boise River from the current 240 to 1,750 cubic-feet-per-second beginning Wednesday." According to a Bureau of Reclamation news release, "The flow

through town will be increased 500 cubic-feet-per-second each day over three days, starting on March 21 and ending on March 23, 2018. This increase in flows is due the current snowpack in the basin, as well as good reservoir carryover from the 2017 season. These releases will help reduce the risk of flooding later in the spring – which can happen with rapidly melting snow and seasonal precipitation.”

## **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

---

### **Safety Inspectors To Spend More Time On Offshore Drilling Platforms.**

The Hill (3/19, Green) reports the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement announced it will implement a new plan on April 1 that “will make inspections more efficient and reduce taxpayer spending significantly – dropping costs by nearly \$20 million over 3 1/2 years.” Michael Saucier, a BSEE supervisor in the Gulf of Mexico, said, “This new process will allow BSEE inspectors to increase physical inspection time on offshore oil and gas facilities.” World Oil (3/19) reports the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is planning on “increasing physical inspection time offshore, while reducing taxpayer burden by nearly \$20 million over 3.5 years” beginning April 1. By utilizing access to electronic records, inspectors of the BSEE “will now have significantly more time to inspect operations offshore, ensuring safety at more than 2,200 facilities in the Gulf of Mexico.” The new procedures “will also reduce helicopter operating expenses 15%, without impacting safety and environmental protections.” BSEE Director Scott Angelle said, “This approach greatly improves our inspectors’ efficiency, increasing safety oversight at OCS facilities. ... Our team developed a smarter, safer strategy that provides more physical inspection time offshore and reduces government costs.”

### **Crane Accidents Prompt Surprise Offshore Inspections.**

E&E Publishing (3/19) reports inspectors from the Department of the Interior “carried out surprise inspections on dozens of offshore oil and gas platforms and rigs in the Gulf of Mexico last week” after crane accidents “were up over 4 percent last year, to the second highest level in a decade.” BSEE’s head of Gulf offshore safety management Jason Mathews said, “There are still some major incidents that are occurring, and we need to figure out why.” Approximately “40 platforms and rigs were visited by more than 50 Interior inspectors,” in some cases leading to “noncompliance notices...that could ultimately result in fines.” The inspections come as “transparency groups and Senate Democrats” raise questions “about the department’s commitment to safety in the offshore industry.”

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

### **Groups Sue Over Decision To Lift US Ban On Elephant Trophies.**

The AP (3/20, Biesecker) reports that “a coalition of environmental and animal-welfare groups sued on Tuesday to challenge the Trump administration’s moves toward allowing the importation of the heads, hides and tusks of African elephants as hunting trophies.” Four organizations “filed an amended lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington against Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke over this month’s announcement that the Fish and Wildlife Service will begin considering permit applications for importing body parts from sport-hunted elephants on a case-by-case basis.” The groups claims the Trump Administration is “failing to comprehensively consider the ecological impacts of trophy hunting and has been operating with a lack of transparency and public input.”

Also reporting are The Hill (3/20, Green), CNN (3/20, Wallace, Vazquez), and the New York Post (3/20, Fredericks).

### **Wyoming Considers Grizzly Hunt After Trump Team Took Bear Off Endangered List.**

The Washington Post (3/20, Grandoni) reports that Wyoming is considering “allowing hunters to kill up to two dozen Yellowstone-area bears” following a Trump administration decision last summer to remove the grizzly bear from the endangered species list. The article notes that “it would be the first grizzly bear hunt in the Lower 48 states since the icons of the Western United States were put on the endangered species list in 1975.” However, “anti-hunting advocates, including many environmental and Native American groups, contend the bear is still under threat from broad changes to the Yellowstone ecosystem.”

***Federal Judge To Review Grizzly Delisting.*** The Gillette (WY) News Record (3/20, Freedman) reports that “while Wyoming is proceeding with plans for a grizzly bear hunt beginning Sept. 1, a federal judge in Missoula, Mont., announced last week he plans to conduct an August hearing on whether or not the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appropriately delisted the animal from Endangered Species Act protection.” U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen “denied the federal government’s request to delay handling of six lawsuits and turned down three other motions to decide the case on technicalities.”

### **Captive-Raised Endangered Suckers Released Into The Wild.**

KDRV-TV Medford, OR (3/20, Sheppard) reports that “endangered fish are now swimming in their natural habitat for the first time. US Fish and Wildlife Service biologists said Lost River and shortnose suckers are not surviving on their own in their first few years of life and scientists have not been able to figure out why.” For the past two years, US Fish and Wildlife Service has been “raising young suckers in captivity.” On Tuesday, the article says, “the first batch of fish were released into their natural habitat, Upper Klamath Lake.” The Senior Advisor to the Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Alan Mikkelsen helped with the release. Mikkelsen said, “It’s an attempt to stabilize and then ultimately increase the



population of suckers in the lake, both Lost River and shortnose suckers. We would really like to get to the point where the Klamath tribes will have their traditional and cultural fishery restored and where irrigators will be able irrigate with those same goals and those same parameters.”

## **National Park Service**

---

### **House Panel Weighs Plans To Close \$11.6 Billion Parks Repair Backlog.**

Cronkite News (3/20, Bustos) reports that “witnesses and panelists on a House subcommittee agreed Tuesday that something needs to be done to close an \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog in the national parks, but differed on how to pay for it.” Lawmakers were divided over the National Park Service Legacy Act of 2017, “which would create a dedicated maintenance fund for the next 30 years,” and the National Park Restoration Act, which “would dedicate a portion of new energy revenues over the next 10 years, up to \$18 billion, but could send significantly more per year to the parks during that decade than the other bill.” National Park Service Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith “testified the service supports the second bill because parks could receive revenue from ‘all energy development’ – mostly conventional sources like oil, gas and coal, but also from renewable energy sources.” Smith said in his testimony, “Without a dedicated funding source, the deferred maintenance backlog will continue to grow. The backlog of projects at our national parks limit access, impair visitor experiences and impact recreational opportunities.”

### **\$500K Federal Grant Will Help Preserve Civil Rights Icon’s Bogalusa Home.**

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (3/20, Warren) reports that members of the Robert “Bob” Hicks Foundation gathered Tuesday to announce that the Robert “Bob” Hicks house and “an adjacent ‘mill house’ from 1906 have been chosen to receive a \$500,000 preservation grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.” Foundation members would like to “see the Hicks house, which has sat empty in recent years on Robert ‘Bob’ Hicks Street, opened as a museum to highlight the region’s civil rights and African-American history.”

### **Brecksville Dam Demolition Project Set To Begin In Fall After Environmental OK.**

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (3/20, McCarty) reports that “the long-awaited demolition of the Brecksville Dam has cleared its final hurdle and could be completed by the end of this year, the Ohio EPA and the National Park Service announced Tuesday.” A final environmental assessment “determined that the dam’s removal would have no significant impact on the health of the Cuyahoga River, allowing the deconstruction work to begin as soon as this fall, weather permitting.” According to the article, “the demolition of the 8-foot tall, 183-foot-long dam is expected to

improve water quality, oxygen levels and river flow, while providing an inviting habitat for fish species not seen upriver in decades, such as walleye, Northern pike, steelhead trout, white bass and potentially even sturgeon.”

### **Historic Re-Creation: Renovated Arch Museum Will Feature Creole-Style House.**

The Ste. Genevieve (MO) Herald (3/20) reports that “the Gateway Arch National Park’s museum, located under the iconic structure, will reopen in July after an extensive remodeling.” According to park historian Bob Moore, “the goals of the renovation...included telling the story of the place where the arch stands.” He said, “There was so little about that spot in the old museum. We wanted to show, in some respects, architecturally what the changes had been like on the arch grounds over the years.”

### **Moose, Elk Research Continues In Rocky Mountain National Park.**

The Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald (3/20) reports that “National Park Service staff are collaring up to 40 moose throughout Rocky Mountain National Park as part of an ongoing research project.” According to the article, “a noticeably growing moose population in the park has presented a challenge to RMNP staff’s efforts to reestablish the natural range of variation of the park’s elk population, as well as the aspen and willow communities.” Researchers will collect “information on moose population size, population growth rate, and carrying capacity as well as habitat use during the study.”

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (3/21).

### **New Motors Installed In Carlsbad Caverns’ Main Elevators.**

The AP (3/21) reports that Carlsbad Caverns National Park officials “say the park’s primary elevators now have new motors.” According to the article, “work to repair and modernize the system began last December,” and “officials on Tuesday called the installation of the new motors a milestone.” Workers will next “install new guide rails in the hoist way.”

### **Review Expands Montpelier Historic District, Adds New Sites.**

The AP (3/20) reports that “a number of sites in the Vermont capital of Montpelier have been added to the National Register of Historic Places, including Hubbard Park’s Observation Tower.” The article says that “a total of two new neighborhoods and 36 additional properties were added in the National Register review.”

### **US Geological Survey**

---

### **California Mudslides: Where And Why They Happen.**

Fox News (3/20, Farber) reports that “parts of central and Southern California could be impacted by powerful mudslides this week, weather

forecasters said, thanks to a massive atmospheric river that's expected to hit the state late Tuesday." Mudslides, "also known as debris flows, are a type of landslide that can occur after a natural disaster, such as a wildfire." However, "mudslides can also occur without a wildfire preceding it, according to Francis Rengers, a research geologist at the United States Geological Survey." In January, "you had a large amount of rain and a burn area that didn't need much to get going in the first place," Rengers said.

## Opinion Pieces

---

### **Gazette Opinion: Zinke's Looking More Like D.C., Less Like Montana.**

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/20) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "erratic behavior" at a House hearing on Thursday was "just another in a growing number of incidents which demonstrate his values are too much Washington, D.C., and not enough Montana." The paper says that "traveling in lavish style, spending money frivolously and ethics investigations certainly aren't in line with Montana values which he so often talks about." The paper supports continued investigation by the Office of the Inspector General of "these questionable travel expenses as well as allegations of lavish spending." It also urges Zinke to apologize to Rep. Colleen Hannabusa, "rather than trying to defend the inappropriate remark." The editorial concludes that "even though Zinke is a Montanan, he's not representing our values."

### **Ramping Up Risk In The Gulf Of Mexico.**

In a column for [Forbes](#) (3/17, Shefrin), contributor Hersh Shefrin wrote that the Trump administration's steps to relax safety regulations and standards, which were enacted after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill, "are likely to result in increases in energy production, jobs, accidents, and environmental damage." Shefrin said "many of the issues associated with the regulation rollback...involve independent firms operating platforms in the shallow waters of the Gulf, not the deep waters where Deepwater Horizon exploded." A recent report by the New York Times shows that while "safety has improved for the industry as a whole," there remain "very poor safety records by some independent operators." Given that "some independents are moving from shallow water to deep water, there is cause for concern." Shefrin wrote that with some luck, "the accidents will be much less severe than what we encountered when Deepwater Horizon exploded," but "weaker regulation will raise the odds of more accidents as well as greater environmental damage to a region that is already discernibly deteriorating."

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Let's Address The Real Problem Of Government Financial Waste.* [Daily Caller](#) (3/20, Rene).
- *Now Is Nevada's Chance To Speak Up And Defend Its National Treasures.* [Las Vegas Sun](#) (3/21).

- ***Yellowstone Grizzlies Take Well-deserved First Step Toward Renewed Protections.*** [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/20, Molvar).
- ***Editorial: Trump Should Restore The Ban On Importing Elephant Trophies.*** [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/20).
- ***Trump Kowtows To Elephant Trophy Hunting 'Horror Show'.*** [Alabama Live](#) (3/20, Crowe).
- ***Our View: Grand Canyon Water Problems Cry For Private Partnership.*** [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (3/21).
- ***A Vendetta That's Shaking California.*** [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (3/20, Elias).
- ***Why Wilderness.*** [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/20, Wuerthner).
- ***Editorial Board: Representative Cheney Should Respect The Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Process.*** [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/20).
- ***Bundy-clan Perspective On Public Land Misses The Mark.*** [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (3/20, Elliott).
- ***Bigger Is Not Better For Ocean Conservation.*** [New York Times](#) (3/20, Rocha).

## Top National News

---

### Trump Congratulates Putin On His Reelection, Says He May Soon Meet With Him.

To mostly negative media coverage and criticism from Sen. John McCain, the President yesterday called Russia's Vladimir Putin to congratulate him on his reelection victory. The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Leonnig, Nakamura, Dawsey) reports that "according to officials familiar with the call," Trump "did not follow specific warnings from his national security advisers when he congratulated" the Russia leader, "including a section in his briefing materials in all-capital letters stating 'DO NOT CONGRATULATE.'" The Post also reports that "a senior White House official emphasized that national security adviser H.R. McMaster did not mention the issue during a telephone briefing with the president, who was in the White House residence ahead of and during his conversation with Putin." In fact, "it was not clear whether Trump read the notes, administration officials said."

☒ [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/20, story 4, 1:15, Vega) – the only major network newscast that covered the story – indicated that news of the call "did not sit well with...McCain," who "bashed the President, saying, 'An American President does not lead the free world by congratulating dictators on winning sham elections.'" ☒ [Fox News Special Report](#) (3/20), meanwhile, reported that "the Senate Majority Leader gave...Trump a rhetorical back of the hand." Fox then showed Senate Majority Leader McConnell saying, "When I look at a Russia election, what I see is a lack of credibility. ... Calling [Putin] wouldn't have been high on my list."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Miller) reports "the White House pushed back Tuesday against criticism," saying "the administration 'will be tough when we need to be.'" To [Politico](#) (3/20, Crowley, Nelson), "that

attitude is a departure from decades of US foreign policy, in which a succession of administrations have freely criticized anti-democratic events and elections in other nations.”

In addition to offering congratulations for Putin’s win, the President also announced he may soon meet with him. The AP (3/20, Isachenkov) reports Trump told reporters in the Oval Office, “I suspect that we’ll probably be meeting in the not too distant future to discuss the arms race, to discuss the arms race, which is getting out of control, but we will never allow anybody to have anything even close to what we have. Also to discuss Ukraine, Syria and North Korea and various other things.” Reuters (3/20, Holland) quotes Trump as saying the arms race between the US and Russia “is getting out of control...but we will never allow anybody to have anything close to what we have.”

CNN’s Situation Room (3/20) reported that Trump “did not bring up Russian election meddling” or “the poisoning in the UK...raising the question of whether the President will confront Putin about these issues when they meet in person, as he says they will.”

David Ignatius, however, argued on MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell Reports (3/20) that the potential summit “may be the day’s most important news. The relationship between Russia and the United States, Russia and the West, has deteriorated so badly,” and while “it’s disturbing that...Trump didn’t say anything critical about Russia...I think many analysts are likely to see the opportunity for discussions about this arms race that really is spiraling out of control, a serious situation that now is becoming very ragged again with ISIS in danger of coming back into business. This may be a time in which constructive US-Russian discussion about problems is something that people would think made sense.”

Kristin Tate of The Hill said on Fox News’ Outnumbered Overtime (3/20), “I think it makes no sense to have a deliberately adverse relationship with Putin. Trump is trying to improve this relationship with Putin so that they can potentially work together on things like the North Korean crisis and arms reductions. ... Trump is a negotiator. Let’s see what he can do.” Jason Chaffetz said on Fox News’ Outnumbered (3/20), “I think that’s good news. You need the world leaders to have a discussion and a relationship. I think it’s healthy for them to have those types of discussions and as the President said, there are a myriad of topics, everything from North Korea to Syria to Ukraine. There’s a lot to discuss and I do hope they get together sooner than later. I think that’s a very good sign.”

Former State Department spokesperson Marie Harf said on Fox News’ Outnumbered (3/20) that Trump’s claim that the arms race is getting out of control is “very Cold War language. It reminds me of the Soviet Union and the nuclear arms race and it was interesting that he said, the President said, the arms race isn’t a good thing but we are never going to let anyone get on par with us and that’s true, no other military is on par with us. ... I agree, he should talk to President Putin. The election

congratulations is sort of odd, but that is what it is."

The New York Times (3/20, Landler) reports Trump's call came "a few days after the White House imposed sanctions on Russia for its meddling in the 2016 election" and "sharply criticized it for its apparent role in a nerve agent attack on a former Russian spy and his daughter on British soil." McCain "was quick to criticize Mr. Trump's call to Mr. Putin," saying, "An American president does not lead the free world by congratulating dictators on winning sham elections. And by doing so with Vladimir Putin, President Trump insulted every Russian citizen who was denied the right to vote in a free and fair election." Pamela Brown said on CNN's Situation Room (3/20), "After a scathing statement from John McCain critical of the President and calling Putin a dictator who won a 'sham election,' the White House wouldn't say whether it believed Russia's election was free and fair."

Andrea Mitchell said on MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports (3/20) that "the fact that he did not say that he criticized...Putin or brought up the whole subject of the attack by the Kremlin, according to the UK, according to the United Nations and other NATO countries, is pretty extraordinary. So, to have this friendly congratulatory call with Putin, who he said he would be meeting with in the near future, is pretty amazing." The Kremlin, Bloomberg News (3/20, Epstein) reports, said Trump "didn't raise a nerve-gas attack on a former Russia spy" in England during the phone call.

The Los Angeles Times (3/20, Bierman) reports "news of the Trump-Putin call came first from the Kremlin," as "foreign governments often disclose contacts with Trump before the White House, and with more information." That prompted "reporters to question the president about the call during a brief session in the Oval Office." The Wall Street Journal (3/20, Grove, Ballhaus) notes the President retorted that he had a "very good call" with Putin, and the Washington Post (3/20, Troianovski, Johnson) that "some world leaders have hesitated to congratulate Putin, since his reelection occurred in an environment of state control of much of the news media and his most prominent opponent was barred from the ballot."

House Homeland Security Chairman Mike McCaul said on CNN's Situation Room (3/20), "I think the President is trying to be diplomatic. Let's make no mistake, Putin is not our friend. ... He wants to regain the glory of the old Soviet empire. He did meddle in our elections. He is actively, from my briefings, is trying to influence the 2018 elections. So I think we need to stand up firm, like we have with Kim Jong-un, to Putin in Russia, Xi in China, and also Iran. Those are the main foreign adversaries." Asked about the fact that Trump "never says anything even remotely critical of Putin," McCaul said, "I think he would be well-advised to condemn and criticize."

Abby Phillip said on CNN's Inside Politics (3/20), "In the same way that he congratulated...Putin on his electoral victory, he congratulated the Chinese President for extending his rule potentially indefinitely." Trump "is not bothered by this issue of how long and in what way people hold onto

power, and he's envious as we know, based on the reporting that is out there, he kind of wishes we had a system like that."

Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN's Wolf](#) (3/20), "When you listen to the President's words there, it's so clear what he's not talking about. He's not talking about the sanctions issued by his own Treasury Department just last week. He's not talking about the attack that happened in the United Kingdom there. He's talking as though he is a leader of a democracy somewhere else and not giving the context of Russia."

David Axelrod said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (3/20), "There's so many reasons why it raises eyebrows, not the least of which is that he was apparently advised not to do it. This fits into the pattern of what we've seen over the last few weeks where he ignored the advice on North Korea and ignored other advice on some major – on tariffs."

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) was told on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/20) that Trump congratulated Putin and didn't press him on the nerve agent attack in the UK. Swalwell responded, "That tells me that [Trump] identifies more closely with Putin than he does with our friends."

Sen. Angus King was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/20) about Trump not bringing up Russia's election meddling in the call with Putin. King replied, "I wish he had. I wish he would bring it up with the American people," too, because "there is no doubt" that Russia interfered in the 2016 election. King added that "we're not going to be able to defend ourselves against this kind of aggression unless we have a national consensus that we have to confront" it.

***Soviet-Era Scientist Says He Helped Create Poison Used In UK Attack.*** [Reuters](#) (3/20, Osborn) reports that a "Cold War-era scientist acknowledged on Tuesday he had helped create the nerve agent that Britain says was used to poison an ex-spy and his daughter, contradicting Moscow's insistence that neither Russia nor the Soviet Union ever had such a program." However, Professor Leonid Rink "told the RIA news agency that the attack did not look like Moscow's work because Sergei and Yulia Skripal had not died immediately." Rink said he worked under the Soviet Union at a chemical weapons facility where the Novichok military-grade nerve agent was developed.

***Expelled Russian Diplomats Leave Britain.*** [Reuters](#) (3/20, Faulconbridge, Osborn) reports that 23 expelled Russian diplomats and their families left the Russian Embassy in London and headed back to Moscow on Tuesday. As the diplomats leave London "in the biggest tit-for-tat expulsions since Margaret Thatcher ordered Soviet spies to leave in 1985," Prime Minister Theresa May was due to chair a National Security Council meeting on the crisis.

### **Trump, Saudi Prince Tout Commercial Ties, Common Strategic Interests.**

The meeting between the President and Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Salman was not covered by the major network newscasts last night, and

received only passing mentions on the evening cable shows. Print coverage, meanwhile, highlights the improved state of the US-Saudi relationship under the current Administration. Bloomberg News (3/20, Epstein), for example, says Trump "has adopted a pro-Saudi posture that is a dramatic shift from the Obama administration," and Reuters (3/20, Holland, Bayoumy) that "Trump and the crown prince underscored the strength of US-Saudi ties which suffered under...Obama." Trump told reporters, "The relationship now is probably as good as it's really ever been and I think will probably only get better – tremendous investments made in our country and that means jobs for our workers." In fact, cautions the Wall Street Journal (3/20, Trofimov), both the Saudis and the UAE risk backlash from congressional Democrats because of the perception that they have formed such close personal ties to Trump and his team. The story credits Jared Kushner for helping to bring about the turnaround.

In his Washington Post (3/20) column, David Ignatius urges the Prince "to be in the business of solving problems...rather than picking new fights with Iran," and adds that "he'd be wise to make some friends outside the Trump White House." Yesterday afternoon, Ignatius told MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports (3/20) Trump "has embraced Mohammed...as a Saudi disrupter, a change agent. I think he must see him as a Trump-like figure." Retired Gen. Jack Keane, meanwhile, said on Fox News' Daily Briefing (3/20) "this relationship has never been closer. The last eight years, the United States essentially disengaged from the Middle East in favor of Iran and the negotiated nuclear deal at the expense of our allies. So...Trump...has renewed the relationship that we historically had. It comes at a time when the Middle East is in total chaos because Iran is trampling over our interests" there.

Less favorable was the assessment by CNN's John King, who said on CNN's Inside Politics (3/20) that the Crown Prince "has made his name in recent months by rounding up, not by US justice standards, rounding up critics, opponents, relatives, others in Saudi Arabia who he views as a threat to his rise in power. ... The President [is] not talking about it publicly. It will be interesting to see if it comes up privately – how you do business, how you consolidate power."

At any rate, a later Reuters (3/20) report casts "Trump's red-carpet treatment" of his guest as highlighting "his administration's strong backing of the crown prince," and the New York Times (3/20, Landler) sees the President as "reaffirming his endorsement" of the "ambitious young monarch bent on reforming his country and realigning the broader Middle East."

The AP (3/20, Lederman) reports that the Prince opened his "marathon tour" of the US "soaking in praise from...Trump, who championed close economic ties," and Bloomberg News (3/20, Epstein) that the President "welcomed" the Saudi ruler "as a friend of the US and 'great purchaser' of American armaments and investments," noting "the kingdom has finalized \$12.5 billion in purchases of planes, missiles and



frigates from US companies." The Prince, meanwhile, "praised the kingdom's 'really deep' relationship with the US and said the Saudis are considering \$400 billion in US investment opportunities."

CNBC (3/20, DiChristopher) says Trump "crowed about the sales, running through a list of \$12.5 billion in approved arms purchases by Saudi Arabia and previewing billions more to come." Said the President, "Saudi Arabia is a very wealthy nation, and they're going to give the United States some of that wealth, hopefully in the form of jobs, in the form of the purchase of the finest military equipment anywhere in the world. ... There's nobody even close, as I said before, when it comes to the missiles and the planes and all of the military equipment. ... There's nobody that even comes close to us in terms of technology and the quality of the equipment, and Saudi Arabia appreciates that."

The Washington Post (3/20, Deyoung, Mufson) headlines its story "Trump Meets With Saudi Crown Prince, And Talks About Money," and reports that "picking up on Trump's theme," the Prince "said that Saudi-US ties had created 'more than four million jobs in the United States of America, directly and indirectly,' as well as jobs in Saudi Arabia."

The Gulf News (3/20) recounted that "Trump brought props to the meeting to illustrate the close security partnership," and that he also "said Saudi Arabia is 'footing a big part of the bill' for defence in the Middle East." Along those lines, Reuters (3/20, Holland, Bayoumy) reports the two leaders "discussed tensions with Iran and a Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen which has come under criticism in Congress."

The AP (3/20, Lederman) says, meanwhile, that "Trump and the crown prince looked past the two nations' differing views about waging war in Yemen," and that "Mohammed dodged a shouted question on the Iran deal" but "waxed optimistic about prospects for closer economic ties amid 'new waves of opportunities in different areas.'" The Prince said in English, "The opportunities are very huge." The Wall Street Journal (3/20, Nissenbaum, Ballhaus, Stancati), meanwhile, quotes Trump as telling the Prince, "One thing you have been really focused on is the terrorism threat. ... We have a zero tolerance for the funding of terrorism. Saudi Arabia has been working very hard on that."

Hamdan Al-Shehri, "a political analyst and international relations scholar," writes for Arab News (3/20) that the "so-called Arab Spring...opened the door to terrorist militias, which took advantage of weak and destabilized countries." While "Saudi Arabia called on the whole world to help those countries and battle terrorism with an international coalition," Iran, "of course, was not in this coalition because it was busy taking advantage of the region's instability." Shehri adds that "from the time of the satanic revolution in 1979, when Ayatollah Khomeini gained power in Iran, the horrible story began" – a "story of exporting terror and devastation to the entire region." The Prince's "trip will allow Saudi Arabia and his hosts to work together and defeat the common enemy of Iran, which wants to drive a wedge between Riyadh and Washington."

Writing for the New Republic (3/20), Jonathan Spyer says "the Saudis lack the strength and skill to lead in rolling back the Iranians," so MBS "therefore probably wants firm commitments from the US and a declaration of leadership: for example, a clear strategy to mobilize available assets to halt and roll back Iranian gains in Syria; support for the Saudi/UAE cause in Yemen; and acknowledgment of the strength and depth of Iran's penetration of Iraq, or that further aid to the Lebanese state means strengthening Hezbollah." However, "he may well be disappointed," as "the latest reports suggest the Administration is looking for Saudi Arabia to increase its own commitments on the anti-Iran file – and even pledge \$4 billion for reconstruction in eastern Syria."

The Saudi Gazette (3/20) reports that "in addition to White House meetings, the Crown Prince will meet Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Acting Secretary of State John Sullivan, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, and congressional leaders from both parties." USA Today (3/20, Jackson) says the Prince also "plans to discuss the Middle East peace process at a dinner with administration officials, including...Kushner," and the Gulf News (3/20) that "National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster...will host a dinner" for him.

Reuters (3/20, Holland, Bayoumy) reports "the prince is on a public relations blitz while traveling in the United States, with" additional stops "in New York, Boston, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Houston." The Saudi Gazette (3/20) says "several dozen Saudi chief executives are expected to join" the Prince "in touting investment opportunities in the Kingdom." The Houston Chronicle (3/20, Blum) indicates that "Salman, known by his initials MBS, plans to conclude his visit on April 7 in Houston and Port Arthur with visits to his state oil company's Saudi Aramco Research Center in Houston and to the nation's largest oil refinery in Port Arthur, which is owned by Saudi Arabia's Motiva Enterprises."

Authors Jamal Khashoggi and Robert Lacey, in a Washington Post (3/20) op-ed, urge "the young Saudi ruler," who is "so keen to redesign his own country," to "visit Detroit to see how this once-bankrupt city is rebuilding itself." The two add that "if MBS can help ordinary Saudis to rebuild their lives in their existing homes and communities, and provide them with better schools, job training, roads and sanitation, he could realize he might not need to build fancy new cities miles out in the desert."

***Saudi Foreign Minister Says Trump, Crown Prince Have "Great Personal Relationship."*** Saudi Foreign Minister Abdel al-Jubeir said on Fox News Special Report (3/20) that Trump and the Crown Prince "have a great, great personal relationship with each other. The President also enjoys a very close personal relationship with His Majesty King Salman. Our two countries see eye to eye on all the important issues." He added, "Trump deserves a lot of credit for taking the Saudi-American relationship to greater heights."

***Trump, Mohammed Lunched On Carrot Consomme, Halibut Filet.*** Under

the headline "Healthy White House Menu For A Healthy Saudi-US Relationship," the [Arab News](#) (3/20) reports Trump and the Prince "held a working lunch in the Cabinet Room at the White House." According to the Arab News, "the starter was a carrot consomme with orange blossoms, accompanied with feta cheese and chives bruschetta," while "for the main course, the White House kept it simple and offered a halibut fillet with cauliflower served with crushed sumak, topped with mint butter." Desert consisted of a "fig tart and sesame ice cream."

**Trump: Another Month Before Decision On Iran Deal.** [Bloomberg News](#) (3/20, Epstein) reports the President "foreshadowed a decision next month on the international agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program, a deal struck by his predecessor that he opposed before taking office and has criticized since." Said Trump, "The Iran deal is coming up. It's probably another month or so, and you're going to see what I do. ... But Iran has not been treating that part of the world or the world itself appropriately. A lot of bad things are happening in Iran." Meanwhile, "asked if the US should withdraw from the deal, Prince Mohammed said: 'We'll talk about that.'"

Al-Jubeir was asked on [Fox News Special Report](#) (3/20) if he thinks the US will withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal, and his opinion on the matter. Al-Jubeir responded, "I wouldn't be presumptuous to tell the US" what it should do, "but we support...Trump's policies with regards to Iran completely." He said the nuclear deal has "serious flaws," adding that he "absolutely" does not trust that Iran will abide by the agreement. He also called Iran the "chief sponsor of terrorism in the world."

**Mohammed: "Stable" Oil Market Ahead.** [Bloomberg News](#) (3/20, Olorunnipa) reports the Prince also "said he sees a 'stable' oil market ahead, adding that the kingdom has an 84-year supply of crude." Bloomberg notes Trump "opened a session with reporters by asking the prince where he saw oil prices going and how much petroleum the kingdom still had."

**Senate Tables Effort To Stop US Funding For Saudi Campaign In Yemen.** The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Fandos) reports the Senate "rejected a bipartisan effort to halt American military support for the deadly Saudi-led bombing campaign in Yemen, as lawmakers from both parties declined on Tuesday to support a rare attempt to limit the president's war powers." The resolution was "brought together a handful of Republicans and liberal Democrats," and was tabled "by a vote of 55 to 44." The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Dinan) notes Sen. Bernie Sanders, "who led the push for the vote, said Congress was failing in its duties by ducking the debate, and compared US intervention to conflicts in Iraq and Vietnam, where he said the country was 'misled' into war." The [AP](#) (3/20, Mascaro, Burns) quotes Sanders as further stating, "The founding fathers gave the power to authorize military conflicts to Congress, the branch most accountable to the people, not to the President. ... The time is long overdue for Congress to reassert that constitutional authority."

A [Reuters](#) (3/20, Zengerle) dispatch posted before the vote noted that Sen. Mike Lee, a GOP backer of the bill, "stressed that it...was not timed 'in any way, shape or form' to coincide with the Saudi leader's visit."

Al-Jubeir said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (3/20) that "we are working on a political solution in Yemen that will end in a stable piece for a united Yemen, without any Iranian presence or presence by Hezbollah." He added that until that is the case, "we have to make sure we protect our people, protect our nation."

***Administration Appears To Be Nearing First Repatriation Of Guantanamo Detainee To Saudi Arabia.*** [Reuters](#) (3/20, Stewart) reports that the US is "advancing toward the first transfer of a prisoner from the Guantanamo Bay detention center" under President Trump, "the US military told Reuters on Monday, a move that would repatriate the detainee to Saudi Arabia." The transfer of Ahmed Muhammed Haza al-Darba "appealed to have stalled in February," and the US military said at the time "it was waiting for assurances from Saudi Arabia's government to move forward on his departure." On Monday, the DOD "suggested that the process was back on track."

***Riyadh To Host Arab League Summit.*** [Reuters](#) (3/20, Fahmy) reports the Arab League said in a statement Tuesday that Riyadh will host a summit on April 15 that "will seek to prevent Israel from gaining a rotating seat on the UN Security Council."

***Anonymous Animated Video Depicts Saudi Arabia Invading Iran.*** The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Kirkpatrick) reports that an animated video depicting the crown prince of Saudi Arabia directing an invasion of Iran "first appeared on the internet in December and has been viewed more than 1.2 million times." The video, says the Times, has prompted questions about whether it is "serious or a satire." An official at the Saudi Embassy in Washington "said the kingdom's government had no connection with the video," and Princeton Professor Bernard Haykel suggested that the Iranians themselves might have made the cartoon "to make the Saudis look silly."

***Alwaleed Seeks To Clear Name After Detention.*** [Bloomberg News](#) (3/20, Schatzker) reports Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, "the richest investor in the Middle East and one of Saudi Arabia's most recognizable faces," was detained last November by Saudi authorities as part of "an anticorruption purge" and held – along with hundreds of other Saudis – at Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton for 83 days. In an interview, Alwaleed said he was never charged with any crimes, but did reach "a settlement with the government," which he declined to discuss. Alwaleed did, however, say, "I need to clear my name."

### **Trump Plans To Impose Tariffs, Trade Restrictions On China As Soon As This Week.**

Citing "two people familiar with the matter," [Bloomberg News](#) (3/20, Mohsin) reports the Administration plans to impose tariffs "worth as much as \$60 billion on Chinese products as early as this week to punish Beijing

for what the US perceives as intellectual property theft from American businesses.” The Administration is “said to be considering wide-ranging tariffs on everything from consumer electronics to shoes and clothing made in China, as well as restrictions on Chinese investments in the US,” but sources cautioned that the “exact size and makeup of the sanctions could still change.”

The Wall Street Journal (3/20, A1, Davis) reports on its front page that the tariffs on Chinese imports will be unveiled Thursday, and are expected to be worth at least \$30 billion. In addition, the Administration is weighing penalties on Chinese firms, arguing that state-owned companies are buying US technology to apply for military purposes – or to gain global dominance over the US.

**Chinese Premier Appeals To US To “Act Rationally.”** The AP (3/20, McDonald) reports Chinese Premier Li Keqiang “appealed to Washington on Tuesday to ‘act rationally’ and avoid disrupting trade over steel, technology and other disputes.” At an annual news conference, Li warned that “no one will emerge a winner from a trade war,” but made no mention of a possible Chinese response if Trump imposes tariffs against Beijing. Other officials, however, “say President Xi Jinping’s government is ready to act.”

The Washington Post (3/20, Denyer) also reports Li’s remarks, saying China “responded to the threat of a massive package of tariffs from the United States by vowing to further open its own markets to foreign trade and investment, while warning that a trade war between the two nations would hurt both sides.”

**WSJournal Urges Caution.** The Wall Street Journal (3/20) editorializes that the lack of evidence of careful thought on the part of the Trump Administration over how to respond to Chinese mercantilism risks starting a harmful tariff tit-for-tat trade war. The editors review the steps China has taken in recent years to obtain foreign intellectual property as part of its trade policy without being stopped by the rules of the WTO, and argue that these moves, and not cheap Chinese goods, justify a US government response. The editors advocate a targeted approach to tariffs toward China, which would identify Chinese policies that break trade WTO rules and coordinate a response with other affected governments. Such an approach would keep open competition with other countries and could even strengthen the WTO by incentivizing China to follow WTO rules.

### **Media Analyses: Lawmakers Near Spending Deal, But “Divisive Issues” Remain.**

Reuters (3/20, Cornwell, Cowan) reports that lawmakers “neared agreement Tuesday” on an omnibus spending bill “Congress hopes to pass by Friday, as congressional leaders worked to narrow their differences on thorny issues such as President Donald Trump’s border wall.” While Senate Majority Leader McConnell “said he and his counterparts in the House of Representatives and Senate were ‘moving to completing’ work on the \$1.3 trillion spending” measure, “divisive issues lingered, including whether to

include more money for the wall Trump wants to build on the US-Mexico border and a rail tunnel connecting New York and New Jersey.”

In an earlier report, Reuters (3/20, Cowan) said that “several thorny issues lingered,” including funding for President Trump’s border wall. A “range of other hot-button initiatives was also slowing the unveiling of legislation” that the Republican-controlled House had aimed to make public late on Monday. The AP (3/21, Taylor) says talks “dragged Tuesday as congressional negotiators found themselves tangled in side issues ahead of a Friday deadline.” GOP leaders “had been hopeful a deal could be announced Tuesday evening, allowing for votes in the House and Senate this week.”

The Washington Times (3/20, Dinan, Sherfinski) says conservatives “rebelled” against the bill Tuesday night, “saying their party’s leaders not only accepted budget-busting funding increases but appear to be caving on all the important policy issues they’d hoped to attach to the massive legislation.” House Speaker Ryan and other GOP “leaders argued the bill was good for the military, pointing to an \$80 billion boost in spending this year alone,” but the “defense boost was a \$63 billion one-year increase in discretionary domestic spending, agreed to as part of February’s budget deal.”

Late Tuesday evening, Rep. Steve King (R-IA) was not optimistic about the President’s immigration priorities making into the spending bill King told Fox News’ Tucker Carlson Tonight (3/20), “It’s hard for me to imagine how we listened to a president campaign for all of those months and lay out a clear message, build a wall, end sanctuary cities, enforce immigration law, tighten up and restore the respect for the rule of law, end DACA, and it looks like none of that is going to be served up to this omnibus bill that is coming out.”

However, House Majority Whip Scalise offered a more optimistic view of the measure on Fox News’ Ingraham Angle (3/20) saying, “If you look at a number of the things that are President Trump’s priorities, they are going to be in this bill. You start with the fence. The biggest piece of this bill by far, the funding of our nation’s defense, which actually restores the ability for our country to provide for our men and women in uniform and restore a lot of the damage that Barack Obama did. We work closely with President Trump and [Defense] Secretary Mattis. We saw two more planes fall out of the sky last night, we finally restored air superiority in this field. Given our troops a pay raise. There are tremendous President Trump Republican priorities in this bill.”

A Politico (3/20, Everett, Bade, Ferris, Caygle) report posted late Tuesday evening said Ryan “told his conference that he is planning to pass the massive, \$1.3 trillion omnibus on Thursday, according to House Republicans.” Politico notes that a Thursday vote “would give the Senate just a day to pass the bill before government funding runs out on Friday evening.”

However, The Hill (3/20, Lillis) reports House Democratic leaders said

Tuesday that "more than a dozen 'poison pill' provisions are preventing a bipartisan deal on 2018 spending, pushing Congress ever-closer to a government shutdown." Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) said, "My understanding is there's still about 20 poison pills still out there that need to be worked out, down from 100 and some."


USA Today (3/20, Collins, Shesgreen) reports that congressional leaders were still negotiating with the Administration on Tuesday. White House Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short told reporters after a meeting with Senate Democrats, "Most of the issues focus on border security issues." Short "said that there were a number of areas that Democrats and Republicans disagreed; including funding for border security, an increase in detention beds to hold undocumented immigrants in custody and legal protections for undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children."

***White House Confident Congress Will Avoid Shutdown.*** Reuters (3/20, Lambert) reports White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah told Fox News that the White House is confident Congress will pass a spending bill by the end of this week and avert another government shutdown. Said Shah, "There are a number of issues that are being worked out by Congress, but we remain confident that by the end of the week we're going to have a funding bill that funds this White House and this president's priorities. Right now we're looking at a package that is going to present over \$700 billion in funding for the military for this year and a little more for next year." The Washington Times (3/20, Persons) also reports Shah's comments.

***WPost Calls For Including ACA Fixes In Omnibus Bill.*** A Washington Post (3/20) editorial says the spending bill "may (believe it or not) represent the last time this year lawmakers make significant policy changes," which means "once the omnibus bill clears Congress, there is little chance lawmakers will approve fixes to Obamacare before the 2019 enrollment season begins." While the law "has continued to chug along," Republican "sabotage" will "almost certainly result in more big premium increases next year." Citing some "long-needed tweaks," the Post says a bipartisan group of lawmakers "has tried to shake hands on a package that would make a couple of those tweaks, if it rode into law attached to the omnibus." The group has "come tantalizingly close to a deal" but "negotiations hit a snag over abortion funding." While there is "still a small chance that, over the next day or two," the "forces of partisanship, always amplified during an election year, have so far overwhelmed their good-faith efforts."

### **Armed Officer Kills School Shooter In Maryland, Avoids Potential Massacre.**

USA Today (3/20, Bacon) reports that a gunman "opened fire Tuesday at a high school in southern Maryland, injuring two students before an armed school resources officer intervened, authorities said."

All three networks covered the story.  NBC Nightly News (3/20,

story 2, 2:20, Haake) reported that "police say 17-year-old Austin Wyatt Rollins fired a handgun at 16-year-old Jaelynn Willey," with whom "police believe" he "had a prior relationship." A 14-year-old boy was also shot. However, "within seconds, the school's only resource officer engaged the shooter. The teen and SWAT-trained officer fired their weapons almost simultaneously. The entire incident over in less than a minute with Rollins dead and the officer, Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, hailed as a hero." The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:00, Glor) showed Tim Cameron, the St. Mary's County Sheriff, saying, "No question that his actions, his quick and immediate actions potentially saved a great number of lives."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:50, Moton) said the shooting "comes during a national call to action to make schools safer, and days before thousands are expected in Washington, D.C. for the March for Our Lives rally, in response to the Parkland, Florida school massacre."

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

#### **New York Times.**

**"Trump's Bluster On The Opioid Epidemic."** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/20) asserts that President Trump is "miserably failing" people suffering from the opioid epidemic, as his Administration proposes "cockamamie ideas" to address the epidemic and fails to implement good ones. The editors argue that "ratcheting up the war on drugs," as the Administration wants to do, has been proven not to work, and discusses other "truly absurd ideas" floated in Trump's speech in New Hampshire Monday, including his "preposterous proposal to fight the scourge of drugs by executing drug dealers." Among his good ideas, the editors assert, are "getting health insurance companies to cover mental health and substance abuse treatments," and Trump should encourage "states that have not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to do so."

#### **Washington Post.**

**"DHS Keeps Separating Kids From Their Parents – But Officials Won't Say Why Or How Often."** The [Washington Post](#) (3/20) writes in an editorial that separations of parents and children immigrants such as the 7-year-old Congolese girl who was separated from her mother "for no defensible reason" four months ago are happening with increasing frequency, according to immigrant advocates. The Post argues that such policies are unjustified, and describes the trauma they can bring to the immigrants. The Post says ICE "insists it has done nothing so outrageous that it 'shocks the conscience' – a Supreme Court standard for measuring the denial of due-process rights," and asks: "If it does not 'shock the conscience' to traumatize a little girl by removing her from her mother for four months in a land where she knows no one and speaks no English, what does?"

**"Obamacare's Fate Hinges On A Bipartisan Vote That May Never Come."** A [Washington Post](#) (3/20) editorial says the spending bill "may (believe it



or not) represent the last time this year lawmakers make significant policy changes," which means "once the omnibus bill clears Congress, there is little chance lawmakers will approve fixes to Obamacare before the 2019 enrollment season begins." While the law "has continued to chug along," Republican "sabotage" will "almost certainly result in more big premium increases next year." Citing some "long-needed tweaks," the Post says a bipartisan group of lawmakers "has tried to shake hands on a package that would make a couple of those tweaks, if it rode into law attached to the omnibus." The group has "come tantalizingly close to a deal" but "negotiations hit a snag over abortion funding." While there is "still a small chance that, over the next day or two," the "forces of partisanship, always amplified during an election year, have so far overwhelmed their good-faith efforts."

***"A D.C. Leader's Anti-Semitic Remarks Are Only Part Of The Problem."***

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20) editorializes that DC Council member Trayon White's accidental use of "a standard anti-Semitic trope" in a video posted on Facebook recently, as well as past references to Rothschild use of wealth to exert their control, is "concerning." The Post further criticizes White's remarks for "parroting right-wing conspiracy theorists who claim international bankers use technology to generate extreme weather for their profit," and adds that it is "good that he is open to that learning; better if he" learns from the Rockefeller Foundation about the various issues on which he comments.

**Wall Street Journal.**

***"Tackling China's Protectionism."*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20) editorializes that the lack of evidence of careful thought on the part of the Trump Administration over how to respond to Chinese mercantilism risks starting a harmful tariff tit-for-tat trade war. The editors review the steps China has taken in recent years to obtain foreign intellectual property as part of its trade policy without being stopped by the rules of the WTO, and argue that these moves, and not cheap Chinese goods, justify a US government response. The editors advocate a targeted approach to tariffs toward China, which would identify Chinese policies that break trade WTO rules and coordinate a response with other affected governments. Such an approach would keep open competition with other countries and could even strengthen the WTO by incentivizing China to follow WTO rules.

***"Abortion Over ObamaCare."*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20) editorializes that the Democrats' revolt over the current deal being debated in Congress to prop up the Affordable Care Act for another three years may alienate many voters. Several on the left are opposing the deal because it includes an amendment banning federal funds from subsidizing abortion, the Hyde Amendment, but these guarantees are common in appropriation bills, and states can still use their own funds for coverage. The editors assert these arguments by Democrats demonstrate that the left no longer sees abortion as a personal choice, but rather regards it as an automatic

right that should be subsidized.

**“A GOP Right-To-Try Fumble.”** The Wall Street Journal (3/20) argues in an editorial that the “right-to-try” legislation currently before Congress risks “dying” in Congress even though it is a White House priority. The debate over who should be eligible for experimental drugs has met opposition from Democrats, who cite the FDA’s “compassionate use” program, but “right-to-try” legislation would not actually threaten that program, and hedges against an FDA that may seek to curb patients’ choice. The editors assert that the House should pass the version of the bill which is less contested by Democrats, proposed by Sen. Ron Johnson, and send it to President Trump, as it represents an incremental improvement for patients.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

Trump To Ramp Up Trade Restraints On China

Facebook’s Lax Data Policies Led TO Cambridge Analytica Crisis

Trump’s Stormy History: The Seven-Year Battle Between The President And The Porn Star

Has The Cryptocoin Market Met Its Match In The SEC?

#### ***New York Times:***

Trump Congratulates Putin on Re-Election, but Fails to Mention Meddling in U.S.

In Nafta Talks, U.S. Tries to Limit Junk Food Warning Labels

Ex-Playboy Model Karen McDougal Sues to Speak on Alleged Trump Affair Their Pay Has Stood Still. Now Oklahoma Teachers Could Be the Next to Walk.

New Investigations Into Facebook Add New Pressures

For Texas Bomb Investigators, Each New Explosion Represents New Clues

#### ***Washington Post:***

Trump Offers Putin Well Wishes On Win

Accuser’s Case Against Trump Moves Forward

Ex-employee: Bannon Oversaw Data Collection

Few Answers As Austin Asks Why – And Who’s Next

Student Opens Fire At Md. School

Deputy Now At Center Of Debate On Safety Measures

#### ***Financial Times:***

Trump Meets Saudi Heir As Ties Flourish

Regulators Ratchet Up Pressure On Facebook Over User Data Leak

Sarkozy Detained Amid Claim Gaddafi Donated €50m For 2007 Election Race

***Washington Times:***

Sheriff's Deputy Lauded For Confronting Md. High School Gunman, Averting Worse Attack

Walkout Fallout: School Districts Hit With Backlash Over Political Activism  
Illegals Who Escaped After Oakland Mayor's Alert Already Committed New Crimes, ICE Chief Says

'I Can Only Imagine' Resonates With Christian Audience, Surprises Hollywood

Ryan Uses Defense Spending Increase In Bid To Appease Conservatives On Spending Bill

Argentina's Pro-Market President Helps Tiny Village Once Again Dream Big

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

**ABC:** Weather Forecast; Maryland-School Shooting; Texas-Serial Bomber; Trump Congratulates Putin; Russia Investigation-Trump; Facebook-Cambridge Analytica; Trump-McDougal Case; Minneapolis-Police Shooting; Mexico-American Student Killed; Bermuda-American Found Dead; UK-Ringo Starr Knighted.

**CBS:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Maryland-School Shooting; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Trump-McDougal Case; Facebook-Cambridge Analytica; Puerto Rico-Hurricane Maria Recovery; Male Birth Control Pill; Pennsylvania Man Rescued From Burning Car; Iraq Helicopter Crash-US Victims' Funeral.

**NBC:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Maryland-School Shooting; Weather Forecast; Facebook-Cambridge Analytica; Trump-McDougal Case; FBI-Chris Wray Interview; Puerto Rico-Hurricane Maria Recovery; Melania Trump-Cyber Bullying; Orbitz Hacked; United Airlines-Pet Policy Changes; UK-Ringo Starr Knighted.

***Network TV At A Glance:***

Texas-Serial Bomber – 7 minutes, 40 seconds

Facebook-Cambridge Analytica – 7 minutes, 35 seconds

Maryland-School Shooting 7 minutes, 10 seconds

Severe Weather/Weather Forecast – 6 minutes, 5 seconds

Trump-McDougal Case – 4 minutes, 45 seconds

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

**ABC:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Trump Congratulates Putin; Trump-November Elections; Facebook-Cambridge Analytica; Severe Weather.

**CBS:** Texas-Goodwill Bombing; Texas-Serial Bomber; Severe Weather.

**FOX:** Texas-Goodwill Bombing Accidentally Maryland-School Shooting; Trump-Impeachment Talks; Illinois-Gubernatorial Primary Results; Arizona-Autonomous Vehicle Accident; House Spending Bill. Chao-FIU Bridge.

**NPR:** Texas-Serial Bomber; Illinois-Gubernatorial Primary Results; Facebook-Cambridge Analytica; South Korea-Bilateral Summit.

***Washington Schedule***

---

## **Today's Events In Washington.**

### **White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — President Donald Trump holds cabinet meeting at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — OAS Permanent Council receives Vice President Pence.

FIRST LADY MELANIA TRUMP — Secretary of State's International Women of Courage honored – 2018 Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award ceremony, honoring 10 women who have demonstrated exceptional courage, strength, and leadership in acting to improve others' lives. Deputy Secretary of State, performing the duties of secretary, John Sullivan presents the awards, with First Lady Melania Trump delivering remarks.

**US Senate:** 9:00 AM Bipartisan, bicameral legislators speak at National Ship Repair Industry Conference – National Ship Repair Industry Conference day three, with today's schedule including speaker session with Democrats Sen. Tim Kaine and Reps. Joe Courtney, Madeleine Bordallo, and Republicans Sen. Roger Wicker and Reps. Rob Wittman and John Rutherford, Rm 2253 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC (9:00 AM EDT); first round of Capitol Hill visits (11:00 AM EDT); luncheon speaker, SVC-203-02, U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, Washington, DC (12:00 PM EDT); Hill Crawl; and reception at Adams and Reese Office, 20 F St NW.

9:30 AM DHS Secretary Nielsen and predecessor Jeh Johnson testify to Senate Intelligence Committee on election security – Hearing on 'Election Security', with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen; former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson; Department of Homeland Security National Protection and Programs Directorate Office of Cyber Security and Communications representatives; Election Assistance Commission representatives; National Association of Secretaries of State representatives; National Association of State Election Directors representatives; and Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs representatives

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Michael Scudder to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit; Amy St. Eve to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit; and Charles Williams to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa

10:00 AM Senate Public Works Committee hearing on NRC oversight – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission', with testimony from NRC Chairman Kristine Svinicki, and Commissioners Jeffery Baran and Stephen Burns

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Kirsten Dawn Madison to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; and Thomas Hushek to be U.S. Ambassador to South Sudan

10:30 AM Hearing on 'Economic Report of the President', with

testimony from Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett

2:00 PM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies to Senate committee hearing on FY'19 and FY'20 budgets – Hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2019 Budget for Veterans' Programs and Fiscal Year 2020 Advance Appropriations Request', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, Assistant Secretary for Management and Department of Veterans Affairs CFO Jon Rychalski, Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits James Manker, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resource Management Richard Chandler; Veterans Health Administration CFO Mark Yow; National Cemetery Administration Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Planning Matthew Sullivan; Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Director Carlos Fuentes; Paralyzed Veterans of America Associate Legislative Director Sarah Dean; and Disabled American Veterans Assistant National Service Director LeRoy Acosta

2:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on Lebanon – Near East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism Subcommittee hearing on 'What's Next for Lebanon? Stability and Security Challenges', with testimony from Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies Elliott Abrams; and International Crisis Group President and CEO Robert Malley

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider 'S. 1250, the Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act of 2017' and 'S. 2515, the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act'

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on U.S. Navy shipbuilding programs – Seapower Subcommittee hearing on 'Navy Shipbuilding Programs', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition James Geurts; Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems (OPNAV N9) Vice Adm. William Merz; and U.S. Marine Corps Director of Capabilities Development Brig. Gen. James Adams III

2:30 PM Oversight hearing on 'The President's FY2019 Budget Request for Indian Programs'

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on ballistic missile defense – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Ballistic Missile Defense Policies and Programs', with testimony from Under Secretary of Defense for Policy John Rood; U.S. Northern Command Commander and North American Aerospace Defense Command Commander Gen. Lori Robinson; Missile Defense Agency Director Lt. Gen. Samuel Greaves; and U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command / Army Forces Strategic Command and Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense Commanding General Lt. Gen. James Dickinson

3:00 PM Office of Strategic Services honored at Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony – Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony to honor Office of Strategic Services (OSS) members for their contributions during World War

II, presented by House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi \* In accordance with Public Law 114-269, a single gold medal has been struck to collectively honor the members

3:00 PM Senate Human Rights Caucus 'Turkey: Human Rights and Religious Freedom in Crisis' discussion – Senate Human Rights Caucus 'Turkey: Human Rights and Religious Freedom in Crisis' discussion, with experts offering their views on threats to freedom of the press, religious minorities, and personal freedoms in Turkey, as well as options for policymakers who remain committed to the rule of law and continued cooperation between the U.S. and Turkey. Panelists are Amnesty International Advocacy Director for Europe and Central Asia Daniel Balson, Freedom House Project Director Nate Schenkkan, and Amberin Zaman of Al-Monitor and Diken, while Caucus Co-Chairs bipartisan Sens. Chris Coons and Thom Tillis also deliver remarks

**US House:** Wednesday, Mar. 21 House Democratic Caucus weekly press conference.

9:00 AM Bipartisan, bicameral legislators speak at National Ship Repair Industry Conference – National Ship Repair Industry Conference day three, with today's schedule including speaker session with Democrats Sen. Tim Kaine and Reps. Joe Courtney, Madeleine Bordallo, and Republicans Sen. Roger Wicker and Reps. Rob Wittman and John Rutherford, Rm 2253 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC (9:00 AM EDT); first round of Capitol Hill visits (11:00 AM EDT); luncheon speaker, SVC-203-02, U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, Washington, DC (12:00 PM EDT); Hill Crawl; and reception at Adams and Reese Office, 20 F St NW, Washington, DC (5:00 PM EDT)

9:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on combating the opioid crisis – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Combating the Opioid Crisis: Prevention and Public Health Solutions', with testimony from witnesses including Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb; CDC Principal Deputy Director Dr Anne Schuchat; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory Director Christopher Jones; Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America Public Policy Consultant Sue Thau; The Kennedy Forum founder Patrick Kennedy; American Association of Poison Control Centers Board President Dr William Banner; Addiction Policy Forum founder, President, and CEO Jessica Hulsey Nickel; St. Joseph's Healthcare System Chairman of Emergency Medicine and Chief Innovation Officer Dr Mark Rosenberg (on behalf of American College of Emergency Physicians); Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Chief Beverly Cook (on behalf of National Indian Health Board); and Clean Slate Centers Vice President of Government Relations Alexis Horan

9:30 AM Hearing on 'The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget', with testimony from USAID Administrator Mark Green

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing –

Markup hearing on 'HR 2683, the Protecting Veterans Credit Act of 2017', 'HR 4659, To require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to recognize the exposure-reducing nature of client margin for cleared derivatives', 'HR 4790, To amend the Volcker rule to give the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System sole rulemaking authority, to exclude community banks from the requirements of the Volcker rule, and for other purposes', 'HR 4861, the Ensuring Quality Unbiased Access to Loans Act of 2018', 'HR 5051, the Public Company Registration Threshold Act', 'HR 5076, the Small Bank Exam Cycle Improvement Act of 2018', 'HR 5082, the Practice of Law Technical Clarification Act of 2018', and 'HR XXXX, the Derivatives Fairness Act'

10:00 AM House Science, Space, and Technology committee markup – Full committee markup H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, the "American Leadership in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act"; H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, the "Commercial Space Support Vehicle Act"; H.R. 5086, the "Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2018."

10:00 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 5294 – Treating Barriers to Prosperity Act of 2018', 'H.R. 3288 – Northern Border Regional Commission Reauthorization Act of 2017', 'H. Con. Res. 115 – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition', 'H. Con. Res. 113 – Authorizing the use of Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby', General Services Administration capital investment and leasing program resolutions, 'H.R. 4177 – PREPARE Act of 2017', 'H.R. 5319 – To transfer Coast Guard property in the Town of Jupiter Island, Florida, for inclusion in Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge', 'H.R. 5326 – Maritime Technical Corrections Act of 2018', 'H.R. 4673 – Promoting Women in the Aviation Workforce Act'

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'19 NOAA budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'FY19 Budget – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration', with testimony from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Rear Adm. (Ret.) Dr Tim Gallaudet

10:00 AM House Armed Services Committee hearing on 'State and Non-State Actor Influence Operations' – Hearing on 'State and Non-State Actor Influence Operations: Recommendations for U.S. National Security', with testimony from former U.S. European Command Commander Gen. (Ret.) Philip Breedlove; former Australian Prime Minister's Senior Adviser John Garnaut; and former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict / former State Department Global Engagement Center Coordinator Michael Lumpkin

10:00 AM Hearing on 'U.S. Trade Policy Agenda', with testimony from U.S. Trade Representative Amb. Robert Lighthizer

10:15 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3997, Free Veterans from Fees Act', 'H.R. 4257,

Advancing Conservation and Education Act', 'H.R. 5005, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System', and 'H.R. 5269, State and Territorial Approval for Restriction of Fishing Act' ('STAR Fishing Act')

10:30 AM Business Meeting, to consider 'H.R.5305: FDLP Modernization Act of 2018'

10:35 AM House Administration Committee hearing on shared employees in the House – Hearing on 'Examining the Role of Shared Employees in the House', with testimony from House of Representatives Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving, Chief Administrative Officer Philip Kiko, and Inspector General Michael Ptasienski

11:00 AM House expected to vote on Financial Stability Oversight Council Improvement Act and Right to Try Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 4061 – Financial Stability Oversight Council Improvement Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 5247 – Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2018'

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on infrastructure – Hearing on 'American Infrastructure and the Small Business Perspective', with testimony from W. James Taylor COO Marsia Geldert-Murphey (on behalf of American Society of Civil Engineers); Gernatt Asphalt Company Vice President for Sales and Quality Control Bill Schmitz (on behalf of National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association); Premier Communications CEO Doug Boone (on behalf of NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association); and Dagostino Electronic Services President and CEO Bob Dagostino (on behalf of National Electrical Contractors Association)

12:00 PM Conversations with Conservatives event – Conversations with Conservatives session, with Republican Reps. Andy Biggs, Ralph Norman, and Louie Gohmert meeting traditional press and bloggers to discuss issues of the day \* Chaired by Republican Reps. Warren Davidson, Jim Jordan, and Mark Meadows

1:30 PM House Technology subcommittee hearing on 'empowering U.S. veterans' – Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Empowering U.S. Veterans Through Technology', with testimony from National Nuclear Security Administration chief scientist Dr Dimitri Kusnezov; SoldierStrong founder and chairman Christopher Meek; Project Hero president and founder John Wordin; and Northwestern University research health scientist and assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation Dr Matthew Major

1:30 PM Agriculture Secretary Perdue testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'FY19 Budget – Department of Agriculture', with testimony from Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; and U.S. Department of Agriculture



Chief Economist Dr Robert Johansson, and Acting Budget Officer Diem-Linh Jones

2:00 PM Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Implementation of MACRA's Physician Payment Policies'

2:00 PM National Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Bureaucratic Challenges to Hurricane Recovery in Puerto Rico'

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on USBR and PMAs – Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Examining the Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Spending, Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Four Power Marketing Administrations', with testimony from Western Area Power Administration Administrator Mark Gabriel; Southeastern Power Administration Administrator Kenneth Legg; Bonneville Power Administration Administrator Elliot Mainzer; Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science Dr Timothy Petty; and Southwestern Power Administration Acting Administrator Mike Wech

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on ground force modernization budget – Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Ground Force Modernization Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology's Military Deputy Lt. Gen. Paul Ostrowski; U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff (G-8) Lt. Gen. John Murray; Marine Corps Combat Development Command Commanding General and U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration Lt. Gen. Robert Walsh; and Marine Corps Systems Command Commanding General Brig. Gen. Joe Shrader

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on China – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on 'U.S. Responses to China's Foreign Influence Operations', with testimony from Jamestown Foundation China Program Fellow Peter Mattis; National Endowment for Democracy International Forum for Democratic Studies Director Shanthi Kalathil; and University of Virginia Assistant Professor of Media Studies Dr Aynne Kokas

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on a U.S.-Saudi nuclear cooperation agreement and the Middle East – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'Implications of a U.S.-Saudi Arabia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement for the Middle East', with testimony from Nonproliferation Policy Education Center Executive Director Henry Sokolski; Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Senior Fellow William Tobey; and George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs Institute for International Science and Technology Research Professor of the Practice of International Affairs Sharon Squassoni

2:30 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Open World Leadership Trust Fund budget – Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing on 'FY19 Budget – Open World Leadership Trust Fund', with testimony from Open World Leadership Fund Executive Director Jane Sargus

3:00 PM Office of Strategic Services honored at Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony – Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony to honor Office of Strategic Services (OSS) members for their contributions during World War II, presented by House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi \* In accordance with Public Law 114-269, a single gold medal has been struck to collectively honor the members

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on military personnel posture – Military Personnel Subcommittee hearing on 'Military Personnel Posture: FY 2019', with testimony from U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff (G1) Lt. Gen. Thomas Seamands; Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke; U.S. Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso; and U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Lt. Gen. Michael Rocco

4:30 PM Dem Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee co-hosts panel on women's political participation – Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems host briefing on 'Ending Harmful Practices: Voices from the Field' – the fourth event of a new series exploring each element of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #5: 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls'. Speakers include Women Thrive Alliance Advocacy and Partnerships Manager Monica De Pinto Ribeiro Hancke, International Center for Research on Women Policy Advocate Rachel Clement, and CARE USA Senior Policy Advocate for Gender and Empowerment Gayatri Patel

**Other:** Wednesday, Mar. 21 Aschiana Foundation Annual Gala – Aschiana Foundation 2018 Annual Gala, in honor of Democratic Rep. Susan Davis, hosted by Norway Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Kare Aas. Location: Norwegian Ambassador's Residence, Washington, DC [www.aschiana-foundation.org](http://www.aschiana-foundation.org).

8:30 AM WGR event with staffers on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee – Women in Government Relations Congressional Breakfast series event with staff of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Republican Professional Staff Member Chester Carson and Democratic Professional Staff Member Brie Van Cleve – sharing their thoughts and expectations for the energy bill and energy policy in 2018 and beyond. Location: AT&T, 601 New Jersey Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.wgr.org> <https://twitter.com/WGRDC>

8:30 AM The Hill 'Leadership in Action' policy discussion – The Hill and The Hill Latino host 'Leadership in Action' policy discussion, a series of one-on-one conversations on diversity, leadership styles and bipartisan initiatives addressing top priorities on Capitol Hill, with Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander and Democratic Reps. Nanette Barragan and Joe Crowley speaking with The Hill Editor-in-Chief Bob Cusack. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC [thehill.com](http://thehill.com) <https://twitter.com/TheHill>

9:00 AM Dem Sen. Bob Menendez speaks on Congressional oversight and U.S. foreign policy at CSIS – Center for Strategic and International Studies hosts conversation with Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, on Congressional oversight and leadership in U.S. foreign policy. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

10:15 AM Army Secretary Esper speaks at Atlantic Council – Secretary of the Army Mark Esper speaks at Atlantic Council Defense-Industrial Policy Series event on 'Army Vision and Modernization Priorities'. Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>

1:30 PM Dem Rep. Yvette Clarke hosts a briefing on the opioid epidemic in the Black community – Democratic Rep. Yvette Clarke – in conjunction with the National Medical Association, the National Black Nurses Association, and the National Dental Association – hosts a briefing on the opioid epidemic in the Black community. Attendees include Medical Homes Development Group Chief Medical Officer Edwin Chapman, NYC H+H/ Kings County Chemical Dependency Services and Integrated Ambulatory Behavioral Health Services Director Susan Whitley and Howard University School of Social Work Associate Professor Janice Berry Edwards. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, 45 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC [clarke.house.gov](http://clarke.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/RepYvetteClarke>

6:30 PM Second Genesis Foundation Presents "Dreamland" Author Sam Quinones – Media representatives, the addiction community, public officials, health policy experts and stakeholders in the DMV community are invited to join the Second Genesis Foundation for a discussion with award winning author and journalist Sam Quinones about his book "Dreamland" and the opioid crisis facing America. Participants: Author Sam Quinones, U.S. Representative Ann Kuster (NH-2), NBC 4 co-anchor Wendy Rieger, Montgomery County Police Department Assistant Chief Darryl McSwain and Chairman of the Board of the Second Genesis Foundation Roscoe Little. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St., NW

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

*Jimmy Kimmel:* "President Trump met at the White House today with the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Prince Mohammed bin Salman. They call him MBS for short. For real. Trump actually prepared for this meeting. His aides say he watched almost all of the movie 'Aladdin' just to get ready for it."

*Jimmy Kimmel:* "Establishing relationships with friendly foreign leaders is important for Trump right now because he needs to build a network of countries he can flee to when the time comes."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Meanwhile, the Russia-calooza-paloza is getting bigger every day. The President's legal team is working overtime to help him avoid a lengthy interview with Special Counsel Robert Mueller. According to one of his advisers, Trump's lawyers are in crunch time right now, which is funny because crunch time is also what they call it when an extra crispy bucket of KFC arrives at the White House."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Meanwhile, a former Playboy model, Karen McDougal, is claiming she had sex with Donald Trump in the same golf tournament where he met Stormy Daniels. ... Karen is suing the company that owns the National Enquirer to get out of the agreement to keep her quiet. They did what is known as a 'catch and kill.' They paid \$150,000 for her story and didn't publish it. I don't know what kind of Christmas gifts he gives out, but this Donald Trump has a lot of generous friends. I have no friends who would pay \$150,000 for me."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Meanwhile, remember the Mueller investigation? That Mueller investigation is just steaming straight at Donald Trump. Last week, attorneys on both sides of the investigation sat down in a rare face-to-face discussion about the topics investigators could inquire of the President. 'The Late Show' has acquired exclusive copy of what Trump's lawyers say Mueller can ask. They will allow questions on the 2016 electoral map and noises trucks make, but nothing about Stormy's bathing suit area or Vlad stuff."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Turns out he's bringing in new lawyers. Yesterday he hired former US attorney and psychic who failed to predict they would tow his car, Joe diGenova. Now, I know what you're thinking - this guy looks extremely competent. Where does Trump find these savvy courtroom veterans? Well, the answer may not surprise you because diGenova is a regular on Fox News. Of course, Trump would just hire some guy he saw on TV. I wouldn't be surprised if he brought on diGenova because he thought he was the My Pillow guy."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Bringing in a new lawyer might mean Trump has to lose another one of his legal counsels - namely, Trump's personal lawyer and Cadbury meat egg, John Dowd. According to reports, Dowd has contemplated resigning because he has concluded that he has no control over Trump's behavior. You just figured that out? Come on, man, Trump doesn't even have control over Trump's behavior."

**James Cordon:** "As the Russia investigation moves forward, Trump and his legal team have submitted documents in writing in the hopes that Trump's interview under oath will be shorter. Sources say Trump's attorneys are worried he would be vulnerable in a long interview. It's never a good sign when your attorneys are like, "You need to meet us half way here because my client can't go 10 minutes without lying.""

**James Cordon:** "They handed in written documents. This means investigators have poured over documents in English, in Russian, and now in crayon."

**James Cordon:** "Speaking of Trump's lawyers, President Trump has hired a new attorney for his defense team. Trump's newest legal counsel is a man named Joseph diGenova,, who has frequently and vocally pushed the conspiracy theory that the FBI is plotting to frame the President. Now, I personally don't think any of that is true. But let's hope so!"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "A former Playboy playmate named Karen McDougal, she says that she had an affair with Trump and now she's suing him. You know things are crazy when you hear the President is being sued by a porn star and people go, 'Which one?'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "I saw that Robert Mueller wants to interview Trump, but the President's lawyers want to limit the conversation to certain topics. So right now they're trying to compromise based on what Mueller wants to talk about, and what Trump wants to talk about. I'll show you what I mean. For example, Robert Mueller wants to talk about Anthony Scaramucci. Trump wants to talk about offshore drilling. They're compromising and talking about the 'Jersey Shore' reboot."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "I'll give you another example: Mueller wants to talk about Jared Kushner. Trump wants to talk about new drug laws. So they're compromising and talking about 'dat good kush.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Mueller wants to talk about George Papadopoulos. Trump wants to talk about John Kelly. They're compromising and talking about Papa John's."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Mueller wants to talk about mistakes. Trump wants to talk

about himself. They're compromising and talking about Donald Trump Jr."

**Seth Meyers:** "President Trump said today that he and Vladimir Putin will probably get together in the not too distant future to discuss the arms race. Oh, sorry, I misread that. It's to race into each other's arms."

**Seth Meyers:** "When asked today if the Russian election was free and fair, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, quote, 'We're focused on our elections. We don't get to dictate how other countries operate.' 'Ha, ha, good one,' said Iraq."

**Seth Meyers:** "According to CNN, President Trump's lawyers sat down with members of special counsel Robert Mueller's team last week to discuss the topics investigators could cover with Trump. And so far, it's a pretty short list."

**Seth Meyers:** "President Trump today met with the crown prince of Saudi Arabia at the White House. The prince asked for Trump's help fighting terrorism, and Trump asked for three wishes."

**Seth Meyers:** "According to reports, adult film star Stormy Daniels took a polygraph test in 2011 about her relationship with President Trump, and the examiner found there was a more than 99 percent probability she told the truth about their affair. And we know Trump is lying because we can hear him."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.



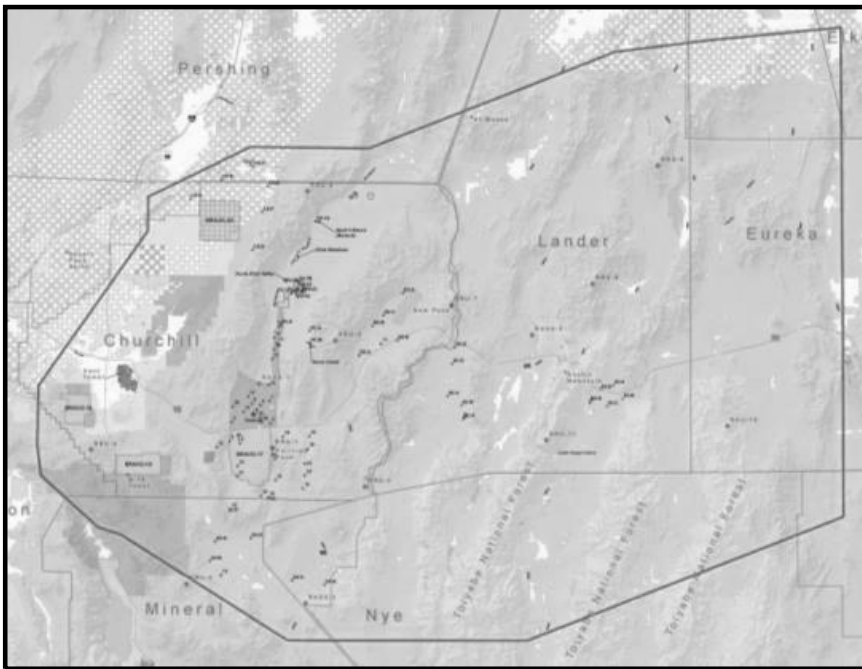
# Required Training Capabilities of the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC)



**“The Carrier in the Desert”**



# Fallon Range Training Complex



- **Home of the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center**
  - 100% of deploying Naval Aviation train in ordnance and electronic warfare at FRTC prior to deployment
  - Aviation ordnance ranges B-17 & B-20 too small for today's Precision Guided Munitions (PGM)
  - Dixie Valley too small for today's aviation electronic warfare
- **Home of Naval Special Warfare Tactical Ground Maneuver**
  - 100% of SEALs train in ground maneuver combat at FRTC prior to deployment
  - Aviation/Ground range B-16 too small for today's SEAL tactics and doctrine

**FRTC Only Place Capable of Providing Realistic Training at Individual, Unit, Integrated & Advanced Levels**





# Naval Air Station Fallon



- **Aviation Integrated Training**

- Air Wing
- Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program

- **Aviation Graduate Level Schools**

- Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN)
- Naval Strike Warfare Center (Strike University)
- Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School
- Rotary Wing Weapons School
- Electronic Reconnaissance Weapons School
- Joint Close Air Support School
- Naval Special Warfare Tactical Mobility Course
- Growler Weapons School
- Tomahawk Land Attack Missile Cell

- **Special Warfare**

- Tactical Ground Mobility
- Close Air Support
- Sniper Sustainment



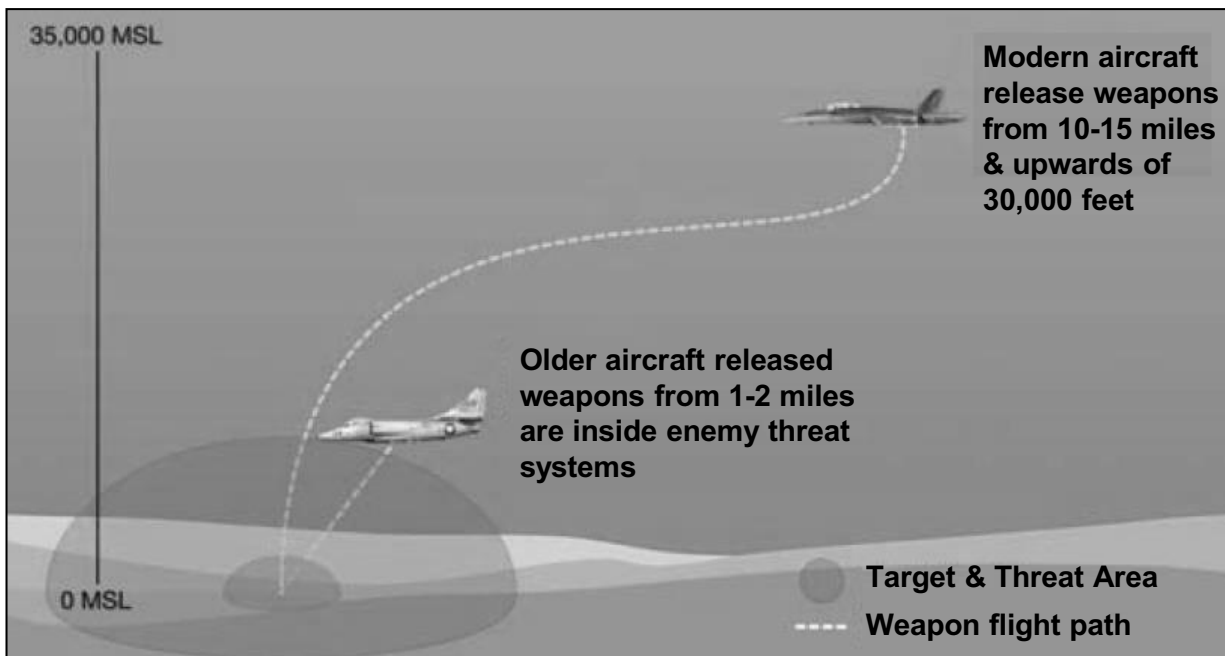


# Weapons Technology Evolution



## ➤ Advanced weapons technology require larger ranges

- Fallon Ranges designed for older “dumb bombs”
- Newer weapons incorporate “smart bomb” technologies for weapons release at longer distances to targets and higher altitudes



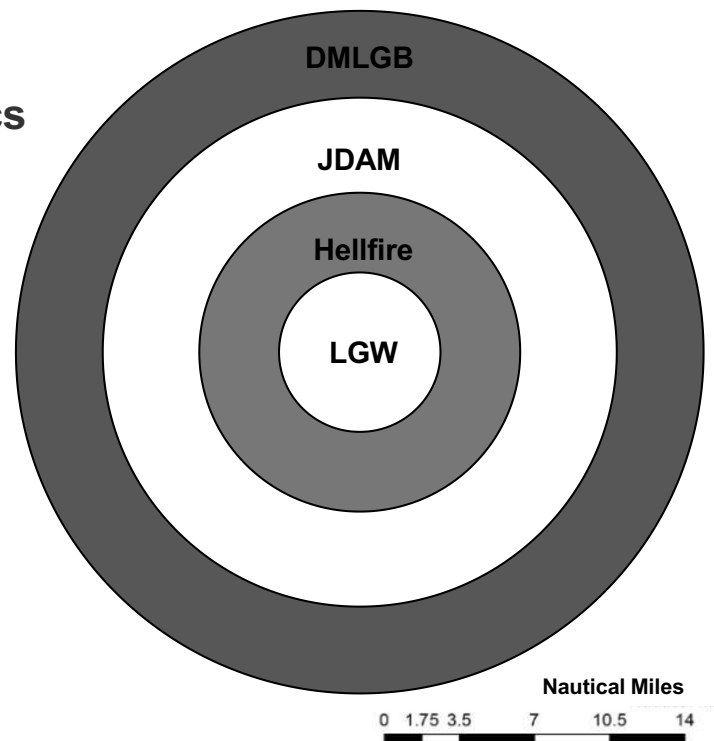


# FRTC Modernization Initiative



- Operation Desert Storm losses to radar guided missiles and radar guided AAA
- Advances in weapons and tactics standoff distances since 1990's
- 2010-2013 analysis identified severe weapons training deficiencies at NAS Fallon
- Current combat weapon tactics not being met
- Current FRTC lands date from 1986 and not configured for today's weapons, tactics and doctrine

## Weapons Classes





# Ordnance Requirements

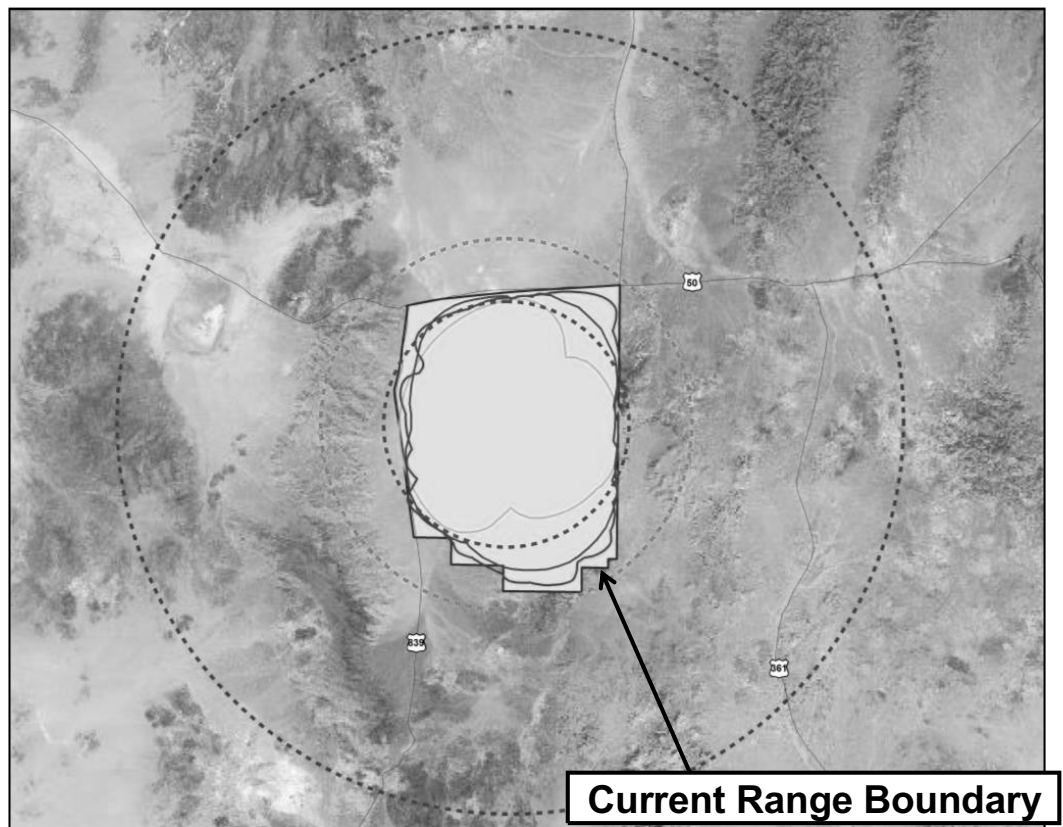


## B-17

- Maximum current weapons capability containment inside the range boundary
- Required 360° to meet realistic training weapon release

### Legend

- Constrained LGW
- Constrained Hellfire
- Constrained JDAM
- - - 360° LGW
- - - 360° Hellfire
- - - 360° JDAM





# Ordnance Requirements

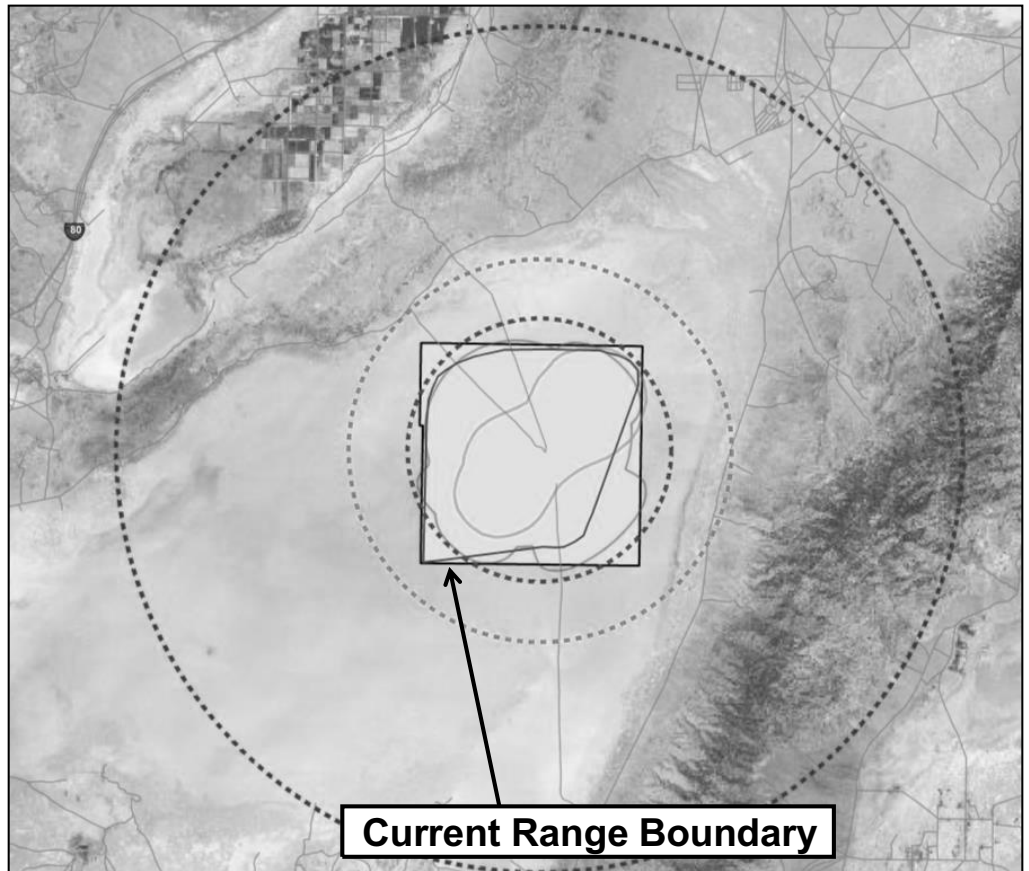


## B-20

- Maximum current weapons capability containment inside the range boundary
- Required 360° to meet realistic training weapon release

### Legend

- Constrained LGW
- Constrained Hellfire
- Constrained JDAM
- - - 360° LGW
- - - 360° Hellfire
- - - 360° JDAM



**Current Range Boundary**



# Aviation Weapons Requirements



	Altitude MSL	Speed KTS	Release Range NM	Dive Angle	Heading
LGW	35K 30K	600	1-6.8 1-5	+5 to -55	0-360
JDAM	35K 30K	600	2-13 2-10	0 to -40	0-360 0-180
HF	2K	120	1-5 .6-4.3	0 to -5	0-360 0-180
DMLGB	35K 30K	560	2-14 2-14	0	0-360 0-180

**Original Aviation Ordnance Requirements  
Validated "Tactically Acceptable" Requirements**

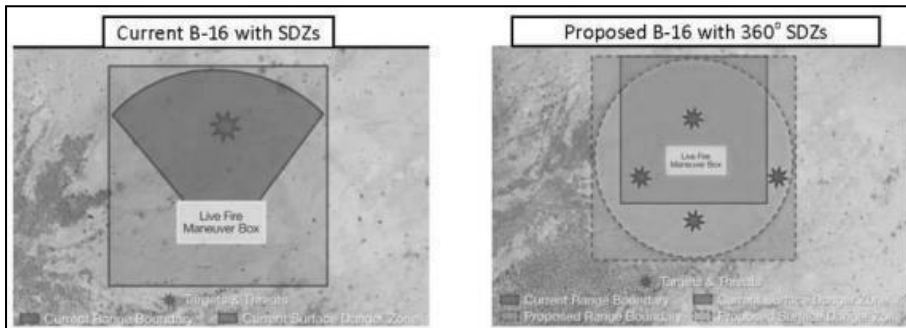


# SEAL Tactical Ground Mobility



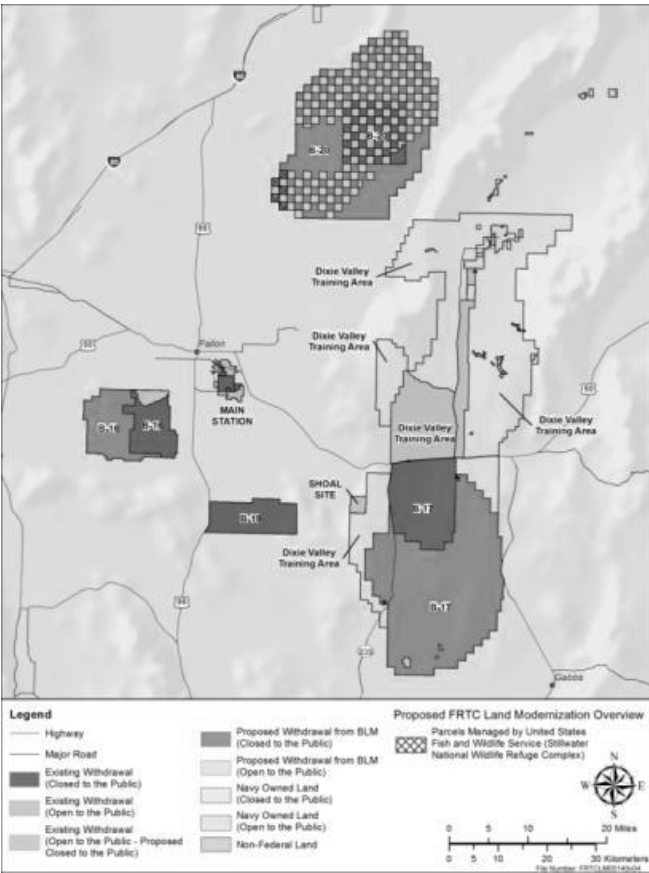
## ➤ SEAL Tactical Requirements

- 360° field of fire for 7.62 mm
- 180° field of fire for .50 caliber
- Off-road driving in mountainous terrain
- Immediate Action Drills
- Close Air Support Integration
- Complex Urban Scenarios





# Overview of Modernization



FRTC Modernization Land Summary			
Range	Current Acres	Proposed Additional Acres	Total Proposed Acres
B-16	27k	32k	59k
B-17	53k	179k	231k
B-20	41k	183k	234k
Dixie Valley	68k	296k	364k
<b>Totals</b>	<b>189k</b>	<b>690k</b>	<b>888k</b>

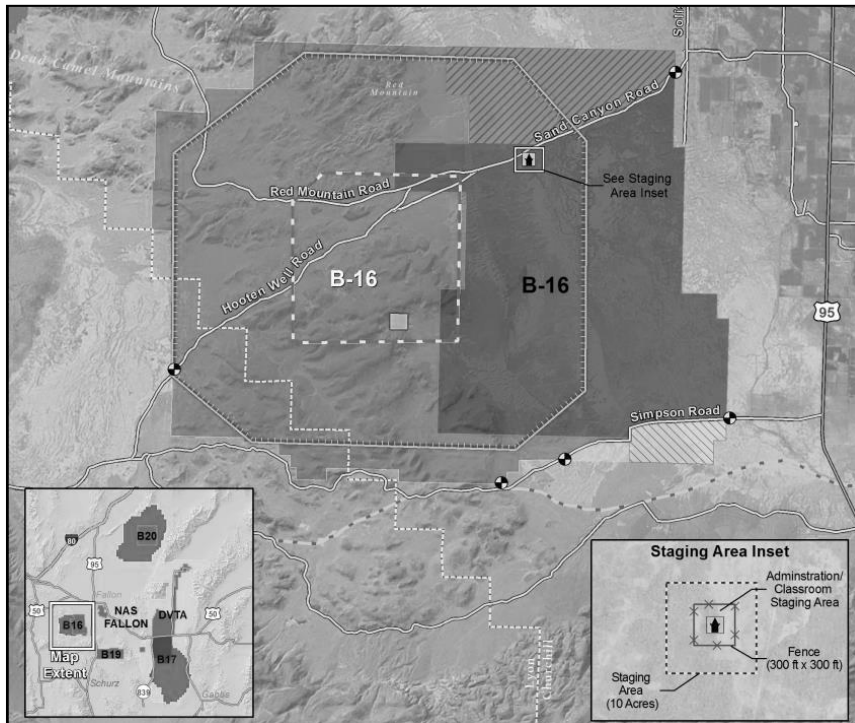




# B-16



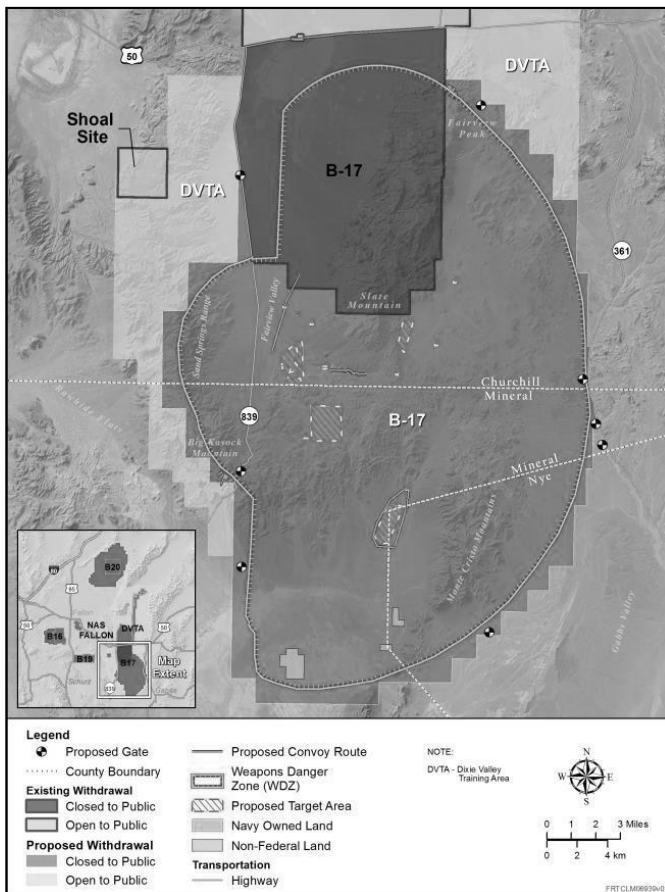
- **Primarily supports Naval Special Warfare (SEAL) Tactical Ground Mobility (TGM) Course**
  - Training requirement for 360° field of fire for small arms up to and including 7.62mm and 40mm
  - Training requirement for 180° field of fire for .50cal



- **Additional SEAL Requirements**
  - Threat representative 360° field of fire attack axis for threat realistic training
  - Multiple training areas with threat & target complexity & redundancy
  - Open area to maneuver convoy escort vehicles in varying terrain conditions
  - Close Air Support Integration
  - Range active 280 days annually
- **Continued support to Naval Aviation**
  - Basic level (inert only) air-to-surface training for tactical aviation
  - Naval Helicopter gunnery



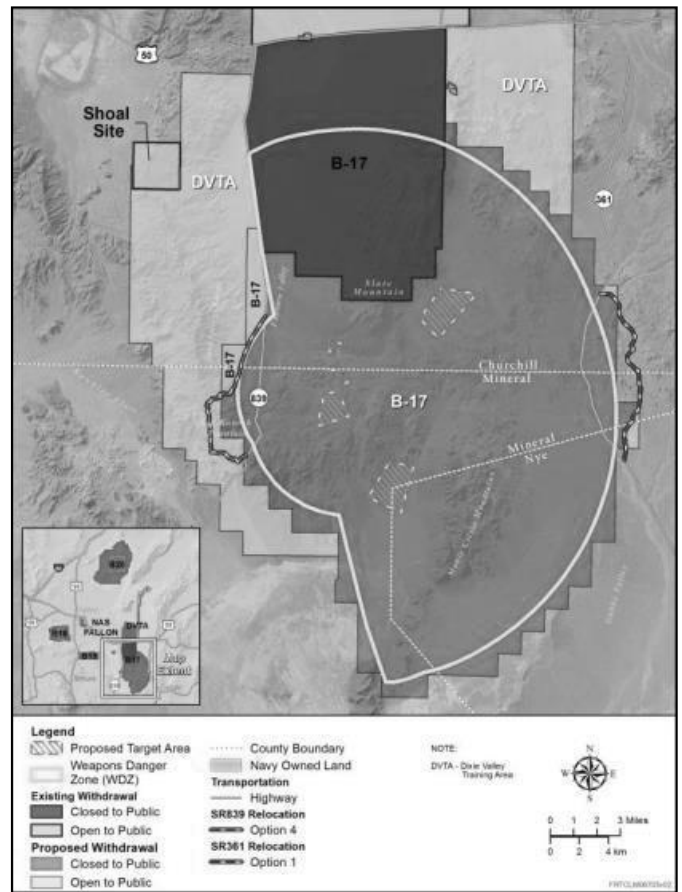
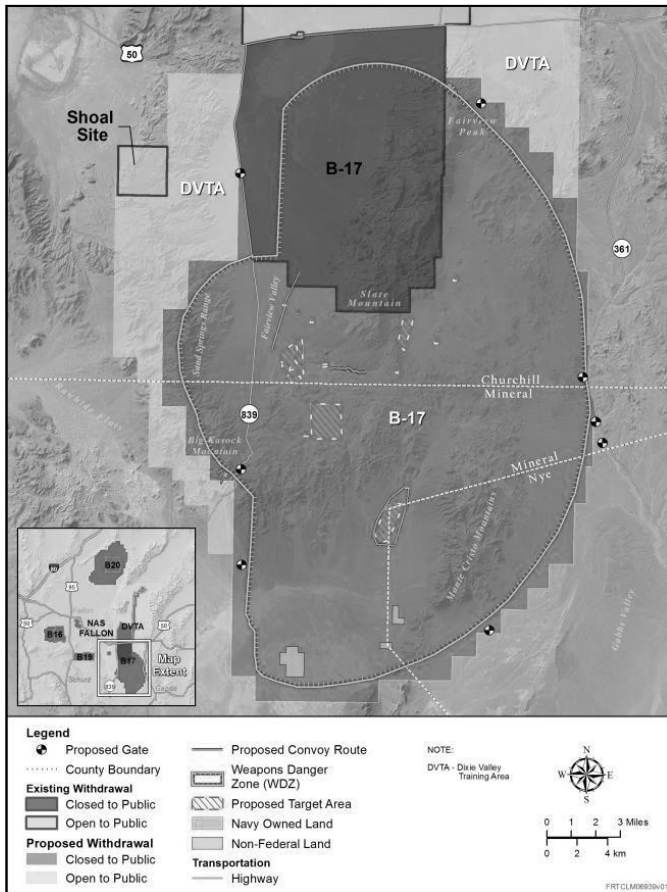
# B-17



- FRTC's premier range due to diverse terrain and geography
- 1 of 2 primary Large Force Exercise ranges
- Live ordnance capability
- Supports all facets of Naval Aviation training continuum
  - Basic, Intermediate, Advanced Phases
- B-17 Requirements
  - Provide increased weapons release profiles per tactics, techniques and procedures requirements
  - Provide threat scenario complexity with multiple targets and target arrays
  - Range active 280 days annually

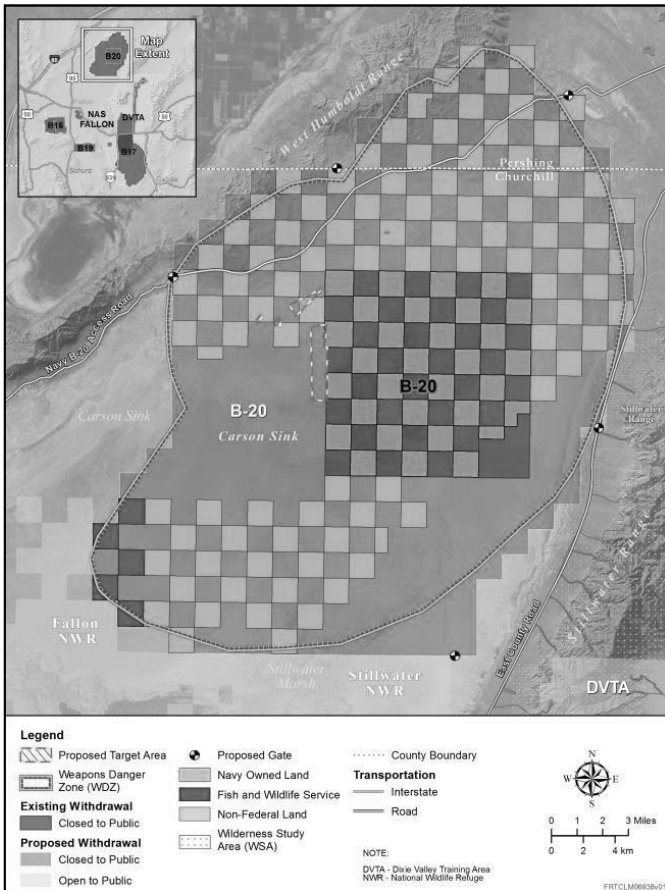


# B-17 Shift Alternative





# B-20



- Additional Large Force Exercise range
- Live ordnance capability
- Supports all facets of Naval Aviation training continuum
  - Basic, Intermediate, Advanced Phases
- B-20 Requirements
  - Provide increased weapons release profiles per tactics, techniques and procedures requirements
  - Provide threat scenario complexity with multiple targets and target arrays
  - Range active 280 days annually



# Dixie Valley Training Area (DVTA)

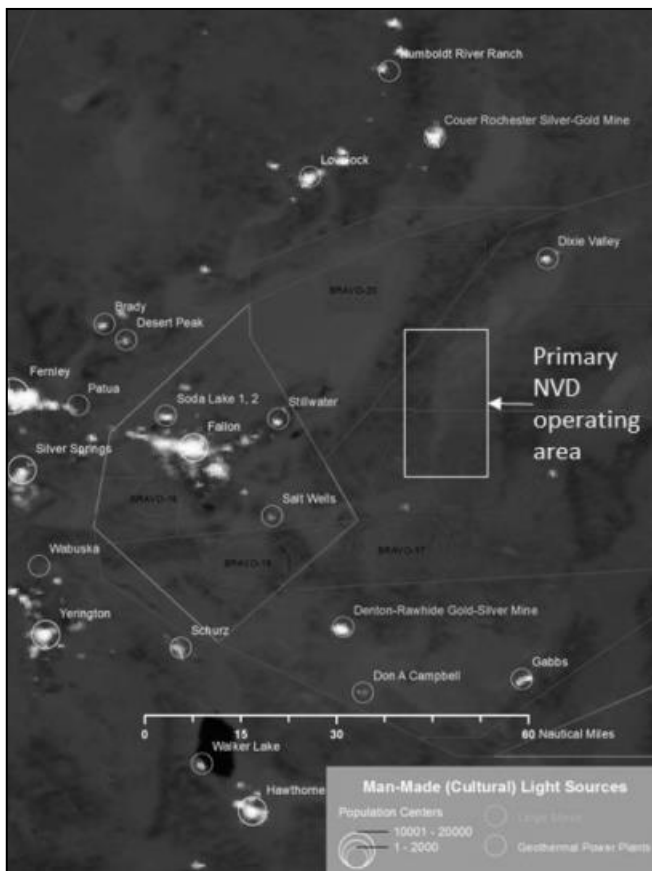


## NAWDC DVTA Requirements

- **Dedicated training ‘Sanctuary’ for critical non-ordnance activities**
  - Combat Search & Rescue
  - Convoy Escort / Dynamic Targeting
  - Helicopter Mountain Flying
  - SPECOPS Infiltration and Exfiltration
- **Integrated air and ground events at low altitudes**
- **Electronic Warfare in mountainous terrain**
- **Night Vision Device (NVD) Training**



# Dixie Valley NVD Training



- 30% of Fallon mission performed at night and on Night Vision Devices (NVD)
- Pristine night environment, free from cultural lighting effects, essential for safe NVD employment
- Cultural Lighting effects would be an impediment to flight safety and training realism if introduced into Dixie Valley
- Tall structures are a hazard to low altitude aviation



# NEPA Process and Timeline



**Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS  
August 26, 2016**

**Scoping Period  
August 26, 2016 to December 12, 2016**

**Public Release of the Draft EIS  
Summer 2018**

**Public Meetings and Comment Period  
Fall 2018**

**Public Release of the Final EIS  
Fall 2019**

**Final EIS Public Review and Wait Period  
Fall 2019**

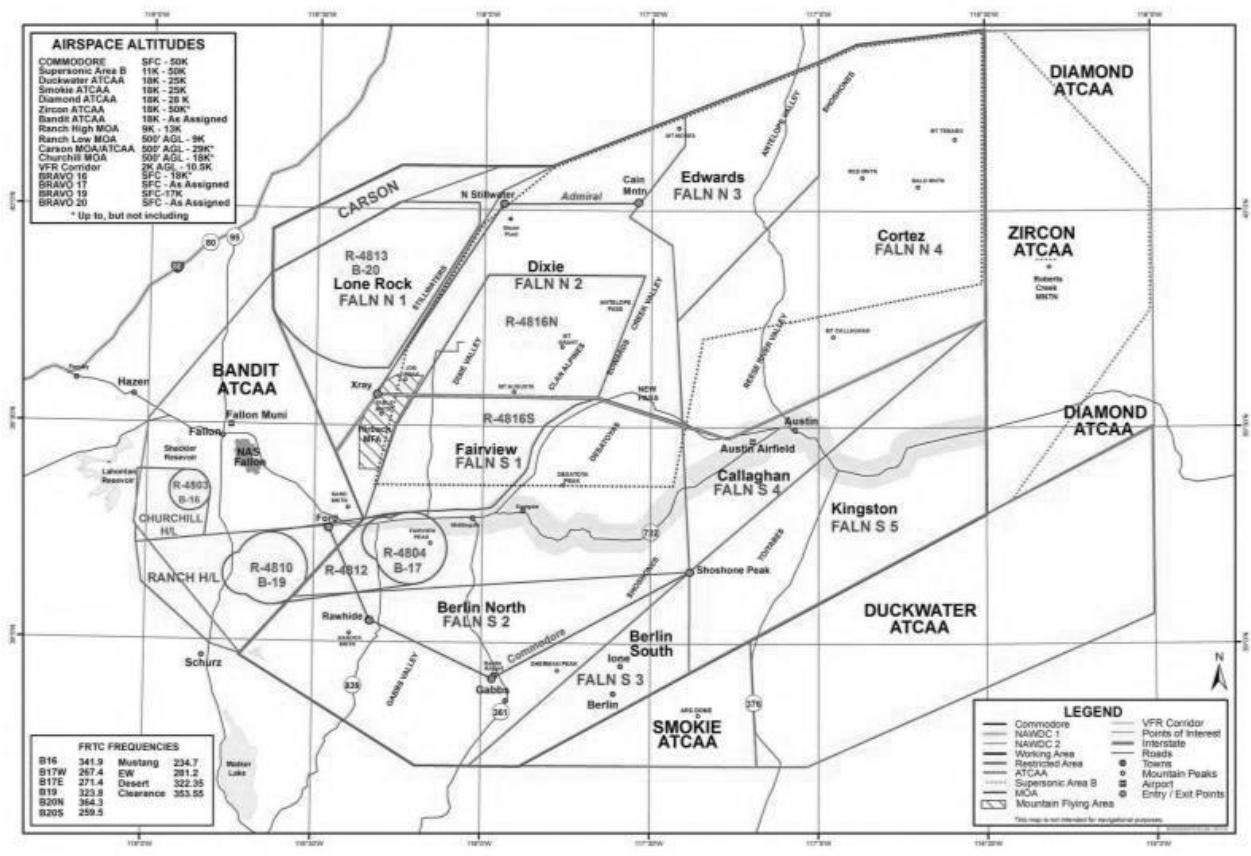
**Record of Decision  
Winter 2019/20**







# Fallon Range Training Complex



Notes Summary:

Slide 13: 'B-17 Shift Alternative'

Slide 17: ''

## **NAS Fallon Expansion – At a Glance**

### Current Fallon Acreage:

202,859 acres

### Total Expansion Requested:

694,840

### Acreage closed in Expansion:

296,803

### Fed Land Expansion Breakdown:

BLM Acreage - 626,263 acres

Bureau of Reclamation Acreage - 65,376

Fish and Wildlife Service Acreage –  
3,201

### DOI Impacted Equities in Expansion

#### Area

47,000 AUMs (with varying seasons of  
use)

14 affected grazing permittees

17 affected grazing allotments

17 mineral leases

816 active mining claims

3,767 acres of active oil and gas leases

12,529 acres of potential oil and gas  
leases

11 Geothermal Leased Parcels

4 Active Geothermal Wells

175,111 acres of Geothermal Potential

3 Wilderness Study Areas in Proximity  
Most acreage determined *not suitable*  
for wilderness:

Clan Alpine WSA

Stillwater WSA

Job Peak WSA

**To:** David Monahan[dmonahan@aloha.net]; Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-03-30T19:47:09-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Ride z  
**Received:** 2018-03-30T19:47:41-04:00

Thanks dave. I am back in the office on Wednesday and will forward the information Arion to you. I have ccd caroline for bio and security detail.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** David Monahan <dmonahan@aloha.net>  
**Date:** 03/30/2018 07:29 (GMT-10:00)  
**To:** Ryan Zinke <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Caroline Personal <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Ride

Hi Ryan.

Happy Good Friday.

Read American Commander, wow.

You will enjoy the guys on the ride and they, you.

When you can, please send me your mailing address and short Bio so I can complete your invitation with the RV Office. Also, when you have the names of your 2 compadres, send them as the Name Badges are intricate and done in advance. They will be nicer if you can make this window and not have the "last minute" version done with a Sharpie pen.

Have a good Easter weekend and hope to hear from you soon.

Dave

David J. Monahan  
(b)(6)

On Mar 14, 2018, at 8:06 AM, Ryan Zinke <(b)(6)> wrote:

Dave, Ryan Zinke here. Thank you for the email and I look forward to the ride. I will have my security team contact you shortly with the details. All the best. Z

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**To:** Bill Hileman[will@whitefishlaw.com]; Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-03-31T19:07:38-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: SUMMER INTERNSHIPS  
**Received:** 2018-03-31T19:08:12-04:00

Congratulations judge! I have ccd caroline to provide details. Also, an intern in congressional with daines or greg may be an option as well. Let's keep in touch. Z

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Bill Hileman <will@whitefishlaw.com>  
**Date:** 03/30/2018 07:01 (GMT-10:00)  
**To:** Ryan & Lola ZINKE <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Bill Hileman <will@whitefishlaw.com>  
**Subject:** SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Hon. Secretary,

Hope all is going well in Washington! Holly is loving her studies at Georgetown, and Hayley is having a great time with golf, joined a sorority, and I believe occasionally engages in academic pursuits! Susan and I are meeting the girls in Seattle for Easter - nothing better than being together for the holiday.

As we spoke during our visit to your office in DC (thanks again!), Hayley and or Holly would be very much interested in an internship with the Interior this summer. Would you be so kind as to provide us with contact information for who to reach out to for additional information ( couldn't find on the website but did like the articles and photos).

Wishing your family a very blessed and Happy Easter, and look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you,  
Judge Will

William Hileman, Jr.  
(b)(6)  
[will@whitefishlaw.com](mailto:will@whitefishlaw.com)

Sent from my iPad

**To:** Ryan Zinke[[cdr06@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cdr06@ios.doi.gov)]  
**Cc:** Aaron Thiele[[aaron\\_thiele@ios.doi.gov](mailto:aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov)]  
**From:** Thiele, Aaron  
**Sent:** 2018-04-03T02:36:47-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Memo for Tuesday 4/3  
**Received:** 2018-04-03T02:36:51-04:00  
[Helium Information - SecMemo 4-2-18.docx](#)  
[FWP BW Parkway Briefing Memo.docx](#)  
[USGS Space Activities Briefing-FINAL.docx](#)  
[CA 4-3-18 Trip Schedule.docx](#)

Attached is the materials for tomorrow's visit to SpaceX and The Boring Company.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Official Travel Schedule of the Secretary**

**Santa Barbara, CA - Hawthorne, CA**

**April 3, 2018**

**Draft: 4/1/18**



**TRIP SUMMARY  
THE TRIP OF THE SECRETARY TO**

Santa Barbara, CA - Hawthorne, CA  
April 3, 2018

**Weather:**

Hawthorne, CA

High 69°, Low 57°; Partly Cloudy

**Time Zone:**

California

Pacific Daylight Time (3 hours behind DC)

**Advance (Sacramento):**

Security Advance

Advance

**Cell Phone:**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c), (b)(7)(f)

Aaron Thiele

(b)(6)

**Traveling Staff:**

Agent in Charge

Deputy Chief of Staff

**Cell Phone:**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c), (b)(7)(f)

Downey Magallanes

(b)(6)

**Attire:**

Tuesday: Jeans and a Blazer



**Tuesday, April 3, 2018**

Santa Barbara, CA → Hawthorne, CA

- 7:00-9:30am PDT: Depart RON en route SpaceX Headquarters**  
Location: Rocket Rd,  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle: RZ  
Staff Vehicle: (b)(6), (b)(7)(c), (b)(L...)  
Aaron Thiele  
Downey Magallanes  
Drive Time: ~2.5 Hours depending on traffic
- 9:35-9:40am PDT: Arrive SpaceX Headquarters**  
Location: 1 Rocket Rd,  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Note: VIP Parking and drop-off in front of building.
- 9:40-10:10am PDT: Tour SpaceX Headquarters**  
Location: 1 Rocket Rd,  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Participants: RZ  
Downey Magallanes  
Aaron Thiele  
Lee Rosen, VP of Customer Operations & Integration  
Keli Turner, Director of Purchasing
- 10:10-10:40am PDT: Roundtable Discussion with SpaceX**  
Location: Conference Room  
1 Rocket Rd,  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Participants: RZ  
Downey Magallanes  
Aaron Thiele  
Lee Rosen, VP of Customer Operations & Integration  
Keli Turner, Director of Purchasing
- 11:40-11:50am PDT: Walk from SpaceX to The Boring Company**  
Location: 1 Rocket Road  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Participants: RZ  
Downey Magallanes  
Aaron Thiele  
Flo Li, Lead Project Engineer  
Jehn Balajadia, Operations  
Jane Labanowski, Community Relations
- 11:50-11:15am PDT: Tour and discussion of The Boring Company**  
Location: 1 Rocket Road  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Participants: RZ  
Downey Magallanes  
Aaron Thiele  
Flo Li, Lead Project Engineer

Jehn Balajadia, Operations

Jane Labanowski, Community Relations

Note: Briefing and tour of Loop project construction site.

**11:15am-11:20am PDT: Depart en route Hyperloop Test Track**

Location: 3242 Jack Northrop Ave.  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle: RZ  
Downey Magallanes  
Flo Li, Lead Project Engineer  
Jehn Balajadia, Operations

Note: Discussion of student hyperloop competition and test track.

**11:20am-11:45am PDT: Tour Hyperloop Test Track**

Location: 3242 Jack Northrop Ave.  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Participants: RZ  
Downey Magallanes  
Flo Li, Lead Project Engineer  
Jehn Balajadia, Operations  
Aaron Thiele  
Jane Labanowski, Community Relations

Note: Discussion of student hyperloop competition and test track.

**11:45-12:00pm PDT: Depart en route Los Angeles International Airport**

Location: 1 World Way,  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle: RZ  
Downey Magallanes

Drive time: ~15 minutes

**1:20pm PDT -  
9:30pm EDT:**

**Wheels up Los Angeles, CA (LAX) en route Baltimore, MD (BWI)**

Flight: Southwest 1833  
Flight time: 5 hours, 10 minutes  
RZ Seat: Assigned at airport  
AiC: Sgt. Mark Asmussen  
Staff: Downey Magallanes  
*NOTE: TIME ZONE CHANGE PDT to EDT (+3 hours)*

**9:30-9:55pm EDT: Wheels down BWI // Proceed to Vehicle**

**9:55-10:45 pm EDT: Depart Airport en route Residence**

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle: RZ

Drive time: ~50 minutes



**United States Department of the Interior**  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**DATE:** April 2, 2018  
**FROM:** Brian C. Steed, Deputy Director for Programs and Policy – Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
**SUBJECT:** Federal Helium Program

---

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The BLM's Amarillo Field Office in Texas operates and manages the Federal helium program at the Bush Dome Reserve (Reserve). Helium at the Reserve is a strategic mineral sold to private suppliers to use in medical equipment, manufacturing computer chips, and the defense and aerospace industries. The BLM must maintain a base supply of 3 billion cubic feet (Bcf), and then auction anything beyond that amount for Federal research and use by other Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The Reserve also serves to store privately owned helium for delivery. The Reserve's ability to satisfy private and Federal demands is increasingly constrained as the Reserve enters its final stages of production.

**II. ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Congress passed the Helium Privatization Act of 1996 requiring that the U.S. Government (USG) sell off the Reserve (32 Bcf) to industry and retire a debt (\$1.3 billion to Treasury). Once the debt was retired, Congress passed the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, requiring that the USG auction off the remaining Reserve while maintaining 3 Bcf of helium in the Reserve. Additionally, the Stewardship Act provided a date certain (10/2021) for the USG to dispose of the Reserve. The disposal date has provided private industry the incentive to increase development of helium sources outside the Reserve. The U.S. House and Senate introduced legislation in 2017 to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to allow helium production to count in a 'paying well' determination, effectively extending the primary term of an oil and gas lease. The change, if enacted, would allow private producers to produce effectively low Btu gas with sufficient helium from Federal minerals. Recently, the helium supply has seen surplus and shortage caused by the world economy (slowdown in 2012-2015 leading to surplus) and supply disruptions (Qatar 2017 boycott leading to shortage). The Reserve serves as a flywheel to adjust the level of the worldwide helium supply. When more helium is demanded from the Reserve than can be delivered, the BLM must allocate production to the helium refiners connected to the Reserve. Federal users of the helium in the Reserve have priority over other users through a contractual relationship.

**III. ACTIONS TAKEN BY HALLWAY**

The Department of the Interior has supported the current legislative initiative to promote production of low Btu, helium-bearing Federal minerals. The BLM ensures that during times of helium shortage, allocations are fairly apportioned and Federal user demands are properly prioritized. Regulatory changes will be required to provide priority helium to Federal users after 2021.

**IV. ANALYSIS AND POSITIONS OF INTERESTED PARTIES (if applicable)**

Federal helium users (agencies or contractors) such as SpaceX rely on the contractual priority to ensure helium supplies for time-critical needs. Private helium refiners and distributors are experiencing more supply disruptions as demand for helium increases and supply is not maintaining the pace.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**DATE:** 3/27/2018  
**FROM:** Jason Larrabee, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
**SUBJECT:** Baltimore-Washington Parkway Update

---

**I. BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON PARKWAY**

Interest from the State of Maryland and private companies for several different proposals to use the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to improve transportation along the Northeast Corridor.

**a. ISSUE BACKGROUND**

One proposal calls for transfer of the parkway to the State of Maryland for expanded lanes, including tolling capacity. Another proposal is for a maglev rail line primarily on private land, partially underground, along the parkway corridor. Another proposal is by The Boring Company to construct two parallel 14-ft wide tunnels below the parkway for a future transit system. That system would also require branch tunnels every mile for egress and ventilation. All of the proposals have substantial environmental and historical implications. Changes in legislation may be necessary for some of these proposals.

**b. ACTIONS TAKEN BY HALLWAY**

There has been no significant action on the transfer proposal. The NPS is a cooperating agency on a Federal railroad EIS for the maglev proposal, a draft of which will not be released until early 2019. DOI and NPS are meeting bi-weekly and have met several times with The Boring Company. DOI/NPS have also met with DOT officials (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Railway Administration) and it was determined that DOT would be the lead agency for the Environmental Assessment (EA) and that the NPS would be a cooperating agency on the Boring Company proposal. The EA kicked off on March 13 and is expected to be completed by May 31. If approved, the NPS would issue a permit to allow construction to start and will negotiate a land exchange for an underground easement.

**c. RECOMMENDATION BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Supports.

**d. ACTION ITEM FOR SECRETARY (if applicable)**

N/A



**United States Department of the Interior**  
 Washington, D.C. 20240  
**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**DATE:** 30 March 2018  
**FROM:** William Werkheiser, Deputy Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
**SUBJECT:** Summary of USGS space-related activities

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a summary of space-related activities in which the U.S. Geological Survey is currently or has been engaged. Secretary Zinke will be meeting with SpaceX on Tuesday, 2 April 2018 and requested a briefing on these activities before his meeting.

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- There are two primary entities that conduct space-related activities within the USGS, the Astrogeology Science Center and the National Land Imaging Program, home of Landsat.
- The Astrogeology Science Center has a rich history of participation in space exploration and planetary mapping starting in 1961 when it was established to provide lunar geologic mapping and assist in training astronauts destined for the Moon.
- The National Land Imaging Program co-administers the 45+ year DOI/USGS partnership with NASA to design, develop, launch, and operate the Landsat satellite constellation that provides the longest-running archive of space-based imagery of the Earth's surface. The program also partners with NASA and other US Government Departments to lead and support future Mars, lunar, and asteroid missions.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Astrogeology Science Center**

The USGS Astrogeology Science Center began in 1961 (as the Flagstaff Science Center) to support the NASA Apollo Program. A major emphasis was on training astronauts in geology and other field methods. Astrogeology has undertaken two efforts with SpaceX. The first was an attempt to find the optimal landing site, on Earth's terrestrial surface, for the SpaceX Dragon space capsule used to send and retrieve cargo and eventually astronauts to and from the International Space Station. The second activity was a broader effort to identify the optimal location for the city SpaceX intends to build on Mars. USGS efforts were funded by NASA. Elon Musk presented the results of the optimal location activity at the International Astronomical Congress in 2017.

After the end of the Apollo Program, the USGS focused on supporting NASA's robotic exploration of the Solar System. This support was extremely broad, for example, developing strategic direction for NASA; building and operating space missions; providing foundational planetary mapping infrastructure; producing image, topographic, and geologic maps of the highest quality; and archiving data from NASA and international missions and making all this information accessible to the public and researchers across the globe.

The USGS has assisted every US space mission, and many international missions, that traveled to an extraterrestrial solid surface. A short list of examples includes:

- Apollo precursor missions: USGS staff played a key role in the operation, data analysis,

and data preservation from the seven Lunar Surveyor robotic landers and the five Lunar Orbiter missions that were used to select the Apollo landing sites.

- Mariner 6-10: USGS played key roles in operating, analyzing, and preserving these first looks at Mars and Mercury, including leading the first global geologic maps of Mars.
- Voyager 1&2: USGS played an essential role through these spacecrafts' grand tour of the outer Solar System, especially in regard to the active geology on the many moons of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.
- Viking Program: USGS played a central role in using the two orbiters to select safe landing sites for the two landers and the subsequent studies of Mars.
- Mars Science Laboratory: USGS scientists and other staff are part of the team conducting the day-to-day operations of the Curiosity rover and interpreting the observations of the sedimentary sequences exposed in the slopes of Aeolis Mons.
- OSIRIS-REx: USGS is developing the software to map asteroid Bennu and select safe but scientifically interesting sampling sites.
- Mars InSight Lander: Scheduled to launch from Vandenberg AFB, California on May 5, 2018. USGS topographic maps are an essential part of selecting the InSight landing site. USGS has provided this kind of support for all successful landings on Mars.

### **National Land Imaging Program - Land Resources Mission Area**

The Secretary of Interior, Stuart Udall, announced 'Project EROS' in 1966, initiating what would become the longest-running Earth Observation program in the world. USGS began the Landsat archive in 1972 which spans seven spacecraft and 45+ years of Earth observation to date. The USGS currently operates both the Landsat 7 and Landsat 8 missions while the USGS and NASA work together building the Landsat 9 mission, scheduled for launch in 2020. The USGS Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) in Sioux Falls, SD manages the world's largest civilian collection of remotely sensed images of the Earth's land surface. Tens of millions of analog and digital images from aerial and satellite missions, including Landsat, NASA, and others, make up over 25 petabytes and 500 data sets spanning a time frame of 70+ years. In an average month, EROS delivers over 25 million satellite products to over 40,000 unique users, all at no cost to the user.

### Interagency and International Earth Observations Coordination

USGS is an active member of the White House-led interagency U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO). USGEO's purpose is to (1) coordinate, plan, and assess Federal Earth observation activities; (2) foster improved Earth-system data management and interoperability throughout the Federal Government; (3) provide agency needs for satellite data to inform NASA's systems engineering and future systems development; and, (4) engage international partners through the international Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

### National Civil Applications Center (NCAC)

In 1975 President Gerald Ford formalized the appropriate Federal civil agency use of overhead remote sensing technologies and data collected by military and intelligence overhead capabilities and directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Civil Applications Committee (CAC) to

provide oversight, coordination, and facilitation of these efforts. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, provides the support required to conduct the activities and operations of the CAC and its Secretariat, including facilities and administration. Since 2010, the CAC has also overseen Federal civil agency access to and use of commercial, unclassified remote sensing imagery procured by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), an agency under the Department of Defense.

## **DISCUSSION**

Landsat missions are now planned through the Sustained Land Imaging Program, a joint-agency activity between DOI/USGS and NASA. The process of determining what the next mission(s) will be is just beginning for Landsat 10 and beyond. If executed as was done with the previous architecture study, industry will have opportunities to contribute to the study. SpaceX provides private solutions for development of rockets and spacecraft. Future Landsat missions may engage broadly with the private sector suppliers of technology and SpaceX may be interested in engagement.

USGS plays a key leadership role in the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO), which is linking Earth observation resources world-wide across multiple thematic applications and making those resources available for better-informed decision-making.

Under the oversight of the DOI-chaired interagency Civil Applications Committee, the USGS National Civil Applications Center (NCAC) is the primary provider of military and intelligence remote sensing data to Federal civilian agencies.

The National Land Imaging Program is working with the Astrogeology Science Center and NASA Ames (Mountain View, CA) as well as university partners on future lunar and planetary missions. The USGS is also involved in the Detecting and Mitigating the Impact of Earth-bound Near-Earth Objects (DAMIEN) Interagency Working Group to assist the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in drafting the National Near Earth Objects Preparedness Strategy and Action Plan.

## **POSITION OF INTERESTED PARTIES**

The USGS Astrogeology Science Center has been funded by NASA since its inception, and NASA is very supportive of their ongoing work activities. Landsat is a partnership activity with NASA and enjoys broad support from private sector organizations (e.g. Amazon, Google, ESRI), state and federal agencies.

**To:** Aaron Thiele[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[REDACTED (b)(6)]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_werner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Leila Getto[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; Luke Bullock[wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov]; Mike Argo[michael\_argo@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Zinke[cdr06@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Boulton, Caroline  
**Sent:** 2018-04-03T17:45:53-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Electronic Briefing Book: 4.4.18  
**Received:** 2018-04-03T17:46:37-04:00  
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 4-3-18.docx](#)  
[4.3.18 Directors SFBPC Meeting Memo.docx](#)  
[RKZ Daily Schedule 4.4.18.docx](#)

All,  
Attached is the schedule and briefing book for tomorrow.

Best,  
Caroline

**Daily Schedule**

**8:30am** Depart Residence en route Museum of the Bible

**9:00am** Remarks at the Museum of the Bible  
Location: Museum of the Bible  
*Staff: Bullock, Argo*

**10:00am** Depart Museum of the Bible en route DOI

**10:30am** Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Hommel, Magallanes, Argo, Rigas, Tanner, Wynn*

**11:00am** Hold: Staff Time  
Location: Secretary's Office

**12:00pm** Lunch  
Location: Secretary's Office

**1:00pm** Drop by Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council Meeting  
Location: 5160 Conference Room  
*Staff: Sheehan*

**1:30pm** Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Hommel*

**2:00pm** Personnel Interview

**2:45pm** OPEN

**3:15pm** Depart en route White House



**3:30pm**            **Meeting with Chris Liddell and Bill McGinley**  
Location: West Wing 223  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Hommel, Magallanes*

**4:00pm**            **White House Murder Board**  
Location: Cabinet Affairs, EEOB 126  
*Staff: Hommel, Rigas, Swift*

**RON**                **Washington, DC**

--

Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 4/3/2018**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Deputy White House Liaison

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

THIS WEEK:

- 4/3 CA: Tour of SpaceX facility in Hawthorne
- 4/4 DC: Remarks at Museum of the Bible
  - Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council Meeting Drop By
- 4/5: WH Principals Meeting
  - Meeting with Chris Lidell
  - Meeting with Gary Knell, National Geographic CEO
- 4/6 NJ: Remarks at Business Network Offshore Wind Conference

**STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: In DC- Internal Meetings

**WH COMMS REPORT (submitted 4/2)**

**Press Inquiries:**

- Many small and logistical inquiries.
- **Politico** (Kim Hefling) —**REQUEST**-- I'm writing today on the attached letters between the Interior and Education departments and about the Education Department's decision to withhold 1.5 percent of the total Title I, Part A set-aside to the Bureau of Indian Education. My deadline is 3:30 p.m. today. 1) Can you please tell me why the Interior Department is opposed to the decision to withhold the funds? 2) Can you please tell me if Secretary Zinke has received a response from Secretary DeVos to the letter in which he voices his concerns? 3) Is the Interior Department taking any additional steps in response to the Education Department's decision to withhold the funds?—**RESPONSE**— "The Bureau of Indian Education values its partnership with the U.S. Department of Education and looks forward to continuing to work together to meet the needs of its students. Secretary Zinke believes our native children deserve the very best, which is why the Secretary is excited and encouraged that the President's plan to modernize American infrastructure prioritizes rebuilding Indian schools."
- **Politico** (Ben Lefebvre) —**REQUEST**— I see that the FEC has sent a letter to SEAL PAC about a discrepancy that occurred while Vincent DeVito was treasurer. Would he be able to provide any comment on why \$600,000 that wasn't disclosed in the first half of 2017 is now said as being raised at the time? --**RESPONSE**— TBD
- **E&E News** (Hannah Northey) —**REQUEST**— Did Secretary Zinke sign or extend forms that grant individuals like Susan Combs authority to oversee the National Park Service and FWS? This would be an amended version of Order. No. 3345 based on past examples. If not Susan Combs, was this order extended or changed for other Interior officials and who is on that new list? --**RESPONSE**—TBD
- **High Country News** (Carl Segerstrom) —**REQUEST**-- This is Carl Segerstrom with High Country News. I am working on a story about the omnibus spending bill. I am wondering how the department is responding to the spending priorities congress set in the recent omnibus spending bill. Some questions I have are: What is the agency's response to congress setting funding above requested levels for many Interior programs? How will the allocation levels change the direction and priorities of DOI? Will the agencies be planning to utilize all of the appropriated funds? Will the DOI be asking for rescission on programs it thinks congress over allocated? Language in the bill appears to restrict reorganization efforts. How does this bill impact reorganization plans for DOI? Will this bill allow the

DOI to move forward with planned workforce reductions and buyouts? Do the agencies plan on carrying out cost-saving measures despite having more funding than was requested? If so, which important cost-savings programs will be carried out as planned? Thank you for your time looking into these questions.—**RESPONSE--** TBD

### Top Stories

- **Washington Post:** [Americans tell Interior to take a hike over proposed national park fee increase](#)
- **Politico:** [FEC increases scrutiny of Zinke's former PAC](#)
- **McClatchy:** [Justice Department suing California over right to sell public lands](#)

### Top Issues, Accomplishments, and Awareness

- Friday, April 6, Secretary Zinke will deliver a speech about offshore wind in Princeton, NJ. Other speakers include the Governor and U.S. Sen Cory Booker
- Sunday, April 8, Secretary Zinke will deliver remarks at the Cherry Blossom marathon
- Wednesday, April 11, Zinke will testify before the House Appropriations Committee
- Thursday, April 19th, Zinke will deliver a speech in Dallas to Earth X. Topic: conservation & the environment (Earth Day)
- April 21-30 - NATIONAL PARKS WEEK - Zinke will drive from upstate NY down to Tennessee and visit National Park Service sites along the way to publicize the President's plan to rebuild infrastructure in National Parks. **Preparing a request for VP Pence to accompany the Secretary at Great Smoky Mountains**
- Wednesday, May 9, Zinke will testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee
- May 18-30 Travel through Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming to meet with Tribal Nations, National Park Service leadership, and deliver energy speeches.
  - Several meetings with Tribal Nations on the opioid crisis and other priorities
  - Speech at the Williston Basin Petroleum Council
  - National Park Service meetings on overcrowding and infrastructure

### AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 3/28)

#### **WEEK AHEAD March 28 thru April 5, 2018**

Announcements/Releases/Events

#### **U.S. Department of the Interior**

*Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews*

- **April 2-3:** Secretary Zinke plans to visit SpaceX Hawthorne facility in Los Angeles, CA. No media planned.
- **April 6: Department-level Release:** DOI will announce a Proposed Sale Notice for Wind Energy Areas offshore Massachusetts. Sale would offer nearly 390,000 acres. This notice is expected to be announced when the Secretary speaks at the International Wind Partnering Forum on April 6 in Princeton, NJ. BLM will release a series of other wind announcements next week in advance of this conference.
- **April 11:** Secretary Zinke will visit the "Prescribed to Death" opioid memorial which was recently announced by the President. National Park Service has been supporting the efforts and we will plan to release a video of the Secretary's visit and NPS' involvement.
- **April TBD: Department-level Release:** Gateway West Record of Decision signing ceremony – News release and possible signing event with Idaho Governor – BLM has approved routes for segments of the Gateway West electric transmission line on public lands in southwestern Idaho, connecting previously authorized routes in southern Wyoming and eastern Idaho to improve the nation's energy infrastructure and boost the economy in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West.

- **April 19:** Secretary plans to travel to Dallas, TX, to give remarks at the EARTHx conference.
- **April 21-29: National Parks Week:** Secretary Zinke will be traveling to several National Parks in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions to highlight our infrastructure needs and the President's legislative package.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **April (TBD): NPS-level Release:** National Park Service will announce their final fee increases. For background, NPS announced in late October 2017 that they were considering increases to fees at highly visited national parks during peak visitor seasons. NPS listened to the feedback from the comment period and will not increase the fees as much as planned (around only 10%). Proposed peak season entrance fees and revised fees for road-based commercial tours would generate badly needed revenue for improvements to the aging infrastructure of national parks. This includes roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, bathrooms, and other visitor services. *Significant media and Congressional attention has been ongoing and expected as part of this announcement.*
- **April 23 (TBD): HARASSMENT SURVEY RESPONSE:** In October, DOI announced an immediate action plan to combat the widespread and pervasive culture of harassment and discrimination throughout the National Park Service. Also, in December, we released results from a DOI-wide Work Environment Survey that shows 35 percent of its employees were harassed or discriminated against in the 12 months preceding the anonymous survey. Secretary Zinke issued a call for action plans from all bureau and office heads across the Department. Those were due at the end of January and have been under review. We issued a memo to all employees last week about updated guidance and updated bureau plans will follow. The final plans will go into effect late April. We are drafting comms materials and will share with the WH asap.
- **TBD April: WELL CONTROL FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING RULE:** The proposed rule to revise certain provisions of the 2016 rule entitled "Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control" was submitted to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on December 7. It is anticipated that BSEE will receive the Draft Rule from OMB by March 15. It will then be sent to the Federal Register for publication followed by a public comment period. This rule will be high profile and controversial. Staff has briefed NEC and White House Communications on the rule.
- **TBD April: PRODUCTION SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING RULE:** The Draft Rule on Production Safety System was published in the Federal Register on December 29. The public comment period ended on January 29. A Draft Final Rule is planned to be sent to the Federal Register in coordination with the Well Control Draft Rule. This rule will be high profile and controversial due to its association with the Well Control Rule. Staff has briefed NEC and White House Communications on the rule. *The Director of BSEE will announce both the Well Control Rule and the PSS rule together.*

#### **National Park Service**

- **April 2-4:** Grand Canyon National Park will install test/monitoring wells near Bright Angel Creek that will help NPS determine sustainable well production rates (how much water a well can produce) and water quality characteristics NPS will consider as it looks at replacing the transcanyon waterline. On March 29, the NPS began mobilizing a drill rig, supplies and equipment to Phantom Ranch via helicopter. The park is currently in the preliminary design phase to replace the transcanyon waterline, and planning is underway. The work being done will be used to help NPS inform the range of alternatives.
- **April 3: Local NPS Release:** Glacier National Park plans to issue a press release briefly summarizing public scoping comments received for the Sperry Chalet, Next 100 Years project. The project proposes four concepts to restore the Sperry experience after the dormitory building was burned in the Sprague Fire in 2017. In the same release, the park will announce a modified environmental

assessment schedule for the project. The accelerated schedule will allow the park to complete project compliance in advance of the summer field season, and give the park the option of completing more extensive stabilization to prepare the structure for the 2018-19 winter season, and to prepare the site for future construction activities in 2019.

- **April 3 (tent.):** The Japanese American Confinement Sites Program (JACS) will request approval for the partial apportionment of \$1,346,818 in JACS grants to fund nine projects. The grants will be awarded based on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, enacted as Public Law 115-123, and pursuant to the Preservation of Japanese American Confinement Sites Act, P.L. 109-441, 120 Stat.3288, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in preserving historic Japanese American confinement sites and their history.
- **April 4:** Grand Canyon Association with logistic support from Grand Canyon National Park will host an event to honor Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and the late Rep. Morris Udall for their notable contributions to Grand Canyon National Park and the nation. The celebration, at Mather Point Amphitheater, will include the donation of an interpretive plaque from the Association to the Park highlighting Sen. McCain's and Sen. Udall's contributions to the park and their dedication to conservation efforts. There will also be an announcement of the establishment of a Native American Fellowship program. Event organizers expect Sen. McCain and up to 120 family members, friends, colleagues, and VIPs to attend. Invitations from Grand Canyon Association have gone out to the 29 Native American Indian tribes in Arizona, the Intertribal Council of Arizona, current and former Arizona Congressional members and Arizona governors.
- **April 4 – 9:** The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historical Park (GA) will observe the 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's assassination with special programming including a Remembrance Day commemorative program in the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church and the opening of an exhibit entitled "From Memphis to Atlanta: 50 Forward". On April 4 there is an exhibit opening and on April 9 the park will host the "March for Humanity," a commemorative march that will start at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and conclude at the campus of Morehouse College.
- **April TBD:** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is seeking approval for a right-of-way permit from Natchez Trace Parkway to begin construction of an aerial 161-kV transmission line across the Parkway at milepost 159.1 as part of a 43-mile upgrade of electrical service. The NPS and the State Historical Preservation Office determined the transmission line will adversely affect the cultural landscape and scenic vista of the Parkway, under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. TVA proposed to transfer funds to the NPS to cover the cost to underground non-TVA transmission lines crossing the Parkway to mitigate the adverse effect. The Parkway is drafting two general agreements to manage the funds, which will undergo complete DOI legal review of mitigation framework and agreements.
- **April TBD:** Death Valley National Park and Mojave National Preserve will begin efforts to relocate up to 2,500 feral burros from each park. Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (a nonprofit partner) will fund and carry out the roundups, test burros for disease, relocate them to holding facilities, and domesticate the animals for adoption. This is anticipated to generate public interest and has already triggered a FOIA request.
- **April TBD: Local NPS Release:** Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Scotty's Castle Flood Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment and FONSI. This document analyzes repair work planned for historic structures, the cultural landscape, utilities, parking, and walkways to recover from damage from a flash flood in October 2015. The historic district is scheduled to reopen to the public in 2020.
- **April TBD:** The National Maritime Heritage Program (NMHP) will request approval for the apportionment of \$2,631,610 in Maritime Heritage Grants to fund 34 projects in 14 states and 1

commonwealth. The grants will be awarded based on the National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994, enacted as Public Law 103-451, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award preservation and education grants to assist to foster a greater awareness and appreciation of the role of maritime endeavors in our Nation's history and culture.

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **April 3:** FWS plans to announce it is seeking public review and comment on a draft environmental assessment describing the potential effects of issuing a proposed incidental take permit for construction and development activities in Thurston County, Washington. The project development site is 127 acres, and the conservation site is 64 acres. Species covered in the HCP include the threatened Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher and the threatened Oregon spotted frog.
- **April 4 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS plans to send to announce a final determination on the proposal to reclassify Kuenzler hedgehog cactus, a plant species endemic to New Mexico, from endangered to threatened. This reclassification is not expected to be controversial.
- **April 5 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will make a final determination on the proposal to list the yellow lance as threatened. The yellow lance is a freshwater mussel that occurs in North Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia. The final listing will likely be opposed by the City of Raleigh due to a proposed reservoir project on the Little River. FWS has been working with the City on this potential project for over nine years, and because other listed species occur in that location, ESA requirements are unlikely to change.
- **April 5: Local FWS Release:** FWS plans to make a minor map correction in the final rule designating critical habitat for two butterflies: the Poweshiek skipperling and Dakota skipper. One map incorrectly labeled Poweshiek skipperling critical habitat as Dakota skipper critical habitat in Minnesota.
- **April 6 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will make a final listing determination for the Louisiana pinesnake as threatened. The pinesnake occurs in Louisiana and Texas. The Louisiana pinesnake listing is controversial due to concerns about the potential impacts on forestry activities, which is why FWS is simultaneously proposing a 4(d) rule that will allow routine forest management activities to proceed without need for permitting. Stakeholders include the timber industry, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Army, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M Forest Service, Center for Biological Diversity, and WildEarth Guardians.
- **April TBD (tent.): Local FWS Release:** An Environmental Assessment will be available for public review on Geronimo Energy's planned development of the Crocker Wind Farm in Clark County, South Dakota, which would include 120 turbines and associated structures. As the proposed project is seeking to place 14 turbines, 14 transmission poles, and other associated features on FWS grassland easements, Crocker is seeking an easement exchange for 15.1 acres of direct easement impact. Crocker has offered funding for 30.2 new easement acres.
- **April TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will award nearly \$19 million in grants to coastal states to conserve and restore coastal wetlands and their fish and wildlife habitat. Each year, the Service supports coastal wetland conservation through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program and the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The grant funds are derived from excise taxes on fishing tackle and motorboat and small engine fuels.
- **April TBD: Local FWS Release:** FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* 90-day findings on petitions to delist or downlist the Cape mountain zebra, and delist the Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

#### Bureau of Land Management

- **April TBD: National BLM Release:** BLM will issue a news release announcing the Wild Horse and Burro 2018 Adoption Schedule.
- **April TBD: National BLM Release:** BLM will announce a mineral withdrawal renewal proposed for Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Winter Range. The proposed extension withdraws 1,431 acres of Federal land from location or entry under the U.S. mining laws but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws. The public land order that established this withdrawal in 2000 will expire soon unless extended. Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Winter Range supports one of the largest wintering herds of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in North America and draws thousands of people annually.

#### **Office of Wildland Fire**

- **March/April TBD: National OWF Release:** OWF will issue a release on the Wildland Fire Leadership Council supporting active management to reduce the threat of unwanted (or damaging and costly) wildfires. A memo from WFLC was sent to the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, Defense and Homeland Security dated 1/29/18, in response to recent direction to think differently and aggressively about reducing wildfires through more active management of overstocked and unhealthy forest and rangelands.

#### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

- **April 6 (tent.): National BOEM Release:** BOEM will release a Call for Information and Nominations for the offshore New York Bight Lease Sale (Offshore Wind).

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- **March/April TBD: Local USGS Release:** USGS scientists are publishing a paper examining the practical limits of an earthquake early warning system, but studying warning arrival times of a hypothetical quake in northern California. Will be published in Science Advances.

#### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

- **April 6:** Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary John Tahsuda will speak at the Federal Bar Association meeting in Scottsdale, AZ.

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **April 2-3:** Reclamation's Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program will hold a biology committee meeting in Grand Junction, Colorado. The Recovery Program is comprised of federal, state and local agencies with a common goal of endangered fish recovery and continued water development in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The biology committee provides technical recommendations to the Recovery Program management committee. Topics include review and approval of the recovery implementation recovery action plan. The meeting is open to the public.
- **April 3:** Reclamation and the Sonoma County Water Agency will release a joint draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for Phase 2 of the North Bay Water Recycling Program. The Sonoma County Water Agency will hold four public meetings in April to solicit public input on alternatives, concerns and issues to be addressed in the final EIR/EIS.
- **Before April 6:** A Federal Register Notice of Availability for the final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) prepared by Reclamation and the City of San Diego for the North City Project is scheduled to be issued. This project is the first phase of the Pure Water San Diego Program—a water and wastewater facilities plan to produce potable water from recycled water.
- **April 6 (tent.): Local Reclamation Release:** Reclamation will announce the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment for Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District's proposal to transfer water to the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company.
- **March/April TBD (tent.):** Reclamation will release its scoping report as part of the re-initiation of consultation on long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

- **March/April TBD:** Reclamation will release an Environmental Assessment for the Kern County Water Agency Improvement District No. 4 Cross Valley Canal Extension. Reclamation proposes to provide \$1,000,000 of federal funding to Kern County Water Agency through a WaterSMART Program grant.
- **April TBD: National Reclamation Release:** Reclamation will notify the public of the availability of a draft environmental assessment for Financial Assistance for the Klamath Basin Sucker Rearing Program. The draft EA was developed by Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Some media and or interest from the Klamath Tribes is possible.)

**CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 4/3)**

**2017 COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF OCS OIL & GAS RESOURCES REPORT TO CONGRESS:** This report is required by Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide a report to Congress within 6 months of the date of enactment (i.e., Aug. 8, 2005), with updates at least every 5 years. It is currently in surnaming with ASLM.

**Timing:** April 2018

**Contact:** Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

**UPCOMING FY2019 BUDGET HEARING:** The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will be hosting a hearing on the FY19 budget. The Secretary will be the witness.

**Timing:** April 11, 2018

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING SCIA HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is hosting a hearing on the FY19 Indian Affairs budget. This is rescheduled from the postponed March 21, 2018 date. Witness is John Tahsuda, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs.

**Timing:** April 11, 2018

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee will be holding a hearing on the FY19 Bureau of Reclamation budget. This is rescheduled from the postponed March 21, 2018 date. Witness is ~~Austin Ewell, Deputy~~ Timothy Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.

**Timing:** April 12, 2018

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee is holding an oversight hearing on the Navajo Generating Station (NGS). Witness is tentatively David Palumbo, Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the Bureau of Reclamation.

**Timing:** April 12, 2018

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HNRC LEGISLATIVE HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee will be holding a legislative hearing on the following NPS bills: H.R. 2991 (Smucker) – Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act; H.R. 1791 (Reichert) – Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Act; H.R. 1037 (Lynch) – National EMS Memorial Act; H.R. 3045 (Messer) – Eastern Legacy Extension Act. Witness is tentatively Joy Beasley, Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science.



**Timing:** April 11, 2018

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING FY2019 BUDGET HEARING:** The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will be holding a hearing on the FY19 budget. The Secretary will be the witness.

**Timing:** May 9, 2018

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Susan Combs (A/S PMB) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) were reported out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources by voice vote on January 30. They were both placed on the Senate calendar and were hotlined on February 7. There were objections by Democrats. We are encouraging Senate leadership to file cloture and hold a floor vote on these nominees.

- Steve Gardner (OSM) was renominated in January after being sent back to the WH at the end of December. We are still working with Mr. Gardner on some questions with the Office of Government Ethics.
- Tara Sweeney (A/S Indian Affairs) was recently cleared by the Office of Government Ethics - her ethics paperwork and an amendment to her 278e are cleared to be submitted to the Senate. Her completed questionnaire will be delivered shortly. Committee is set to receive a briefing from the FBI after the recess. Ms. Sweeney was held in the Senate and does not require renomination.
- Dr. James Reilly (Director of USGS) Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a confirmation hearing for Dr. Reilly on March 6. Timing for a vote in Committee remains fluid.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

**PUBLIC LANDS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND/NATIONAL PARK RESTORATION ACT:** DOI continues the ongoing process of formally rolling out the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, which was included in both the President's FY19 Budget and the Infrastructure proposal. On March 6, 2018, DOI testified at an oversight hearing on the maintenance issue, highlighting the need for maintenance updates on public lands. On March 7, the Secretary joined Senators Alexander, Daines, Capito, Gardner and Tillis to introduce language that was built off of the FY19 Budget proposal, the National Parks Restoration Act. The bill has bipartisan, bicameral support. On March 20, 2018, the Department testified at a legislative hearing before the House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee on the bill. Witness was P. Daniel Smith, Deputy Director, NPS.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**REORGANIZATION AND UNIFIED REGIONAL BOUNDARIES:** Secretary Zinke has informally notified the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding FY18 implementation of new shared regional boundaries across Interior's bureaus. Formal notification is planned for late April or early May following the FY19 appropriations committee hearings, which would trigger a 30 day clock, at the end of which DOI believes it can move ahead, absent express Congressional opposition. Presently, each of the 10 bureaus have different geographic boundaries for regional offices. The new approach has bureaus share unified boundaries based on watersheds, often adjusted to the nearest state line boundaries. Implementing unified regions will improve the timeliness and appropriateness of decision making in the field, by allowing senior managers to focus on the same geography. Interior is implementing a comprehensive Congressional, gubernatorial, employee, and stakeholder communications strategy to demonstrate the

advantages of this approach. The FY19 budget also speaks to moving parts of the headquarters of BLM, FWS, and Reclamation westward. Interior successfully worked with the appropriations committee majority staff to avoid an effort by the minority to put unnecessarily restrictive limitations on the reorganization in the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations act.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

#### **Accepted:**

4/3-6 2018 International Offshore Wind Partnering Forum (Princeton, NJ)  
4/8 – Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run & 5K walk-run benefit Children’s Miracle network (DC)  
4/16 - Alaska Day Conference (organized by the Alaska Federation of Natives (DC)  
4/26 - Remarks at BALL for THE MALL (DC)  
5/3 – RV Industry Power Breakfast (Elkhart, IN)  
5/23 - Remarks at Williston Basin Petroleum 26th Annual Conference (Bismarck, ND)  
6/1 - Ducks Unlimited Annual Convention (Indianapolis, IN)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

#### **Outstanding Invitations in Process:**

4/14 National Cowboy Hall of Fame Event (Oklahoma City, OK)  
4/19-20 5th Annual Arctic Encounter Symposium (Seattle, WA)  
4/28 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary signing of 1868 Treaty of Ft. Laramie (WY)  
5/3 – NRA Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)  
5/10 – SEAL Family Foundation “Families First” Philadelphia Gala (Philadelphia, PA)  
5/22 Easter Seals Advocacy Awards (DC)  
5/21-24 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Meeting (Topopenish, WA)  
5/24 – Surety & Fidelity Association of America’s Annual Meeting (DC)  
5/30-31 Montana Energy Summit (Billings, MT)  
5/31-6/2 – Civil War Trust 2018 Annual Conference (Newport News, VA)  
6/3-5 Annual Coal and Investment Leadership Forum (Bristow, VA)

#### **Declining:**

4/11-13 – NOIA Annual Meeting (DC)  
4/14 SEAL Family Foundation “Families First” San Diego Gala (San Diego, CA)  
5/9 – Association of California Water Agencies (Sacramento, CA)  
5/9-11 Colorado Forum (DC)

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

#### **USBR Wildfire Support – Northern California:**

As of yesterday, all remaining USBR staff have returned from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers northern California wildfire debris removal deployment. From December 13, 2017 through April 2, 2018, USBR deployed 103 staff to fill debris removal inspector positions in the Mendocino County, Napa County, and Sonoma County Emergency Field Offices. USBR deployed staff from all of its regions, the Denver Office, and the Washington Office, to meet the needs of this mission and nearly two dozen staff from the

Denver Office were involved with various aspects of operational and logistical support throughout the deployment.

### **OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)**

#### **Americans Tell Interior To Take A Hike Over Proposed National Park Fee Increase.**

The Washington Post (4/2, Fears) reports that after “receiving more than 100,000 public comments,” nearly all of which opposed an Interior Department plan to “dramatically increase entrance fees at the most popular national parks,” Department officials are “backing away” from the plan. The Post cites “an Interior official” who “said some type of increase remains almost certain but that the dramatic hike is being reconsidered for fear that it would cause visitation to plunge.”

The Hill (4/2, Sanchez) recalls that last October, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke proposed raising the entrance fee for 17 major parks from \$25 to \$70, a change that would mark the largest price increase since World War II.” Interior decided to reconsider following “a deluge of public comments opposing the price increase.” According to The Hill, “for every comment the department got that was supportive of the price increase, it got substantially more that expressed opposition.” CNN (4/2, Wallace) reports Secretary Zinke “has said the fee increase would help the Park Service address a nearly \$12 billion backlog of maintenance projects.”

Also reporting on this story are Missoulian (MT), (4/2) Washington (DC) Examiner (4/2, Siciliano), KBZK-TV Butte (MT) Butte, MT (4/2), Sierra Club (4/2), Newsmax (4/2, Devaney), and Wilderness Society (4/2).

#### **Trump Administration Steps Up War With California Over Environmental Protections.**

The Los Angeles Times (4/2, Tanfani) reports the Administration “stepped up its offensive Monday on California’s environmental laws, suing to reverse a state law that seeks to handcuff the federal government from selling any of the 45.8 million acres of property it controls in the state.” DOJ’s lawsuit “is the latest federal effort to roll back California’s strict environmental protections as the Trump administration seeks to open more land in the West for mining, drilling and other interests.” The Times adds “at issue in the latest lawsuit is a California law that gives a state lands commission the power to block the sale, donation or exchange of federal lands.” It “was passed in October after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced plans to cut protections for 10 national monuments in the state.” Attorney General Sessions said yesterday, “The Constitution empowers the federal government – not state legislatures – to decide when and how federal lands are sold.”

#### **FEC Increases Scrutiny Of Zinke’s Former PAC.**

Politico (4/2, Lefebvre) reports the Federal Election Commission is asking SEAL PAC, a leadership PAC previously affiliated with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, to account for more than \$600,000 of previously unreported contributions from the first six months of 2017. During the period in question, SEAL PAC was overseen by Vincent DeVito, “who is now a top aide to Zinke at the Interior Department, and this is the second time federal regulators have looked into discrepancies during his tenure.” Zinke launched the PAC when he was elected to Congress in 2014 but “disaffiliated himself from the group after being selected to join President Donald Trump’s Cabinet.” Brett Kappel, a partner at Akerman LLP and expert in campaign finance law, said the \$600,000 discrepancy is large enough that it will be “referred to the FEC’s Enforcement Division for an investigation.”

#### **Officials Remove Human Role In Climate Change From Report.**

Drawing from a Reveal (4/2, Shogren) report, MSNBC’s All In (4/2, Hayes) reports that National Park Service officials “reportedly deleted every mention of humans’ role in causing climate change in a

scientific report just one month before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke testified before Congress that he knew of no documents that had been changed.”

#### **How Susan Combs’ Trump Interior Post Has Been Received.**

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/2, Price, Dexheimer) reports that reaction to the scoop that Susan Combs, the Interior Department’s acting assistant secretary for fish, wildlife, and parks, will oversee policy-making for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service “has sharply differed.” Land developers and energy industry officials “have long argued that the federal exercise of the Endangered Species Act has gone too far in terms of habitat protection,” and Combs notably once called proposed endangered species proposals “incoming Scud missiles.” Combs’ appointment comes as her confirmation to be Interior’s Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget has been delayed. Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said that until Combs is confirmed, “she will serve in an acting capacity at Fish and Wildlife and Parks.” Swift added that Combs is “highly qualified and we are more than confident that she will be an effective manager.”

#### **Federal Agencies Penalize Fort Peck Tribal Law Enforcement.**

The [AP](#) (4/2) reports the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Indian Affairs “penalized the Fort Peck tribal law enforcement agency for failing to repay \$1.6 million in federal police money used for other purposes and for employing officers without background checks and adequate training, The Billings Gazette has learned.” The DOJ designated the tribes as high-risk in December 2015, “after the tribes failed to repay \$1.6 million that federal auditors in 2006 determined had been used for disallowed expenditures.” The BIA “made its high-risk designation a year ago after finding police and jail officers hadn’t undergone proper background checks and jail staff hadn’t been trained at the right law enforcement academy.” Sanctions included “additional fiscal oversight and the possibility the BIA would take over the tribe’s police and jail programs.” Tribal Chairman Floyd Azure said in an email, “We have already resolved everything and are moving forward.”

#### **API Joins Fight Over Obama Fracking Rule’s Future.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (4/2) reports that the American Petroleum Institute has asked to join the litigation on the side of the Bureau of Land Management over the fate of Obama-era hydraulic fracturing rules that were scrapped last year by the Trump Administration. California and a coalition of environmental groups sued the BLM for rescinding the rule, and are now asking for it to be fully restored, despite the fact that it had never taken effect. On Friday, API “told the court... it needs a seat at the table, too, because it represents broader sections of the oil and gas industry, including service companies, refiners, shippers and more.”

*API Asks To Intervene In Lawsuits Over Rescinded BLM Fracking Rule.* [Natural Gas Intelligence](#)(4/2, Passut) reports that in its filing, the oil and gas industry group wrote, “API’s members will be directly damaged if the invalidated provisions of the fracking rule were to take effect, because those provisions impose expensive, arbitrary and duplicative regulatory burdens on API members that own or operate federal and Indian oil and gas leases and require in many cases costly and permanent capital modifications to infrastructure.”

#### **Feds Begin Environmental Review Of Vineyard Wind.**

The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (4/2, Barnes) reports five public meetings are scheduled this month as the federal government gathers public comments for an environmental report on the Vineyard Wind offshore wind proposal. The US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management “plans to prepare an environmental impact statement on Vineyard Wind’s construction and operations plan. Vineyard Wind,

a partnership between Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and Avangrid Renewables, has proposed an 800-megawatt project off the coast of Massachusetts.” The project could consist of “up to 106 wind turbines, beginning about 14 miles southeast of Martha’s Vineyard. A 30-day comment period runs through Monday, April 30.” Walter Cruickshank, acting director of BOEM, “said in a press release that BOEM will ensure any development is done in an environmentally safe and responsible manner.”

#### **Irrigators Pursue Bureau Of Reclamation Assets.**

The Salem (OR) Capital Press (4/2, Wheat) reports that the “Kennewick Irrigation District is obtaining title to some of its canals and infrastructure from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and its members are considering whether to seek the rest.” Charles Freeman, KID manager, said the title transfer will give the district control over assets “it has paid nearly \$4.6 million for on a lease-loan over the past 65 years and will benefit the local community.” Freeman said, “We have 300 land property transfers a month. The bureau can’t keep up with that work. Developers have waited over a year for easements.” The KID board last year “directed explore title transfer. Staff recommended a two-phase approach with phase one being the transfer of 74 miles of canals with laterals, pumps, drains and wasteways downstream from the headworks at Chandler Pump Station, which is 11.2 miles east of Prosser.”

#### **BSEE Launches Risk-Based Inspection Program.**

E&P Magazine (4/2, Benavidez) reports in a roundup of “Tech Trends” that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement “announced the implementation of a new risk-based inspection program that employs a systematic framework to identify facilities and operations that exhibit a high-risk profile, according to a press release.” The inspections “supplement BSEE’s existing national safety inspection program.” The new risk-based inspection protocol “looks beyond compliance and assesses the integrity of critical safety systems on facilities and in operations. Inspection findings and incident reports are used by BSEE to assign a risk factor score to each production facility in the Gulf of Mexico.”

#### **How Monday’s Decision By The Corps Of Engineers Will Affect Louisiana Coastal Restoration.**

The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (4/2, Hardy) reports that the Trump Administration “has followed through on a promise to expedite federal permitting for a critical coastal restoration project, shaving about two years off the timeline for the Mid-Barataria sediment diversion.” The project will “shunt freshwater, sediment and nutrients from the Mississippi River into the Barataria Basin in Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes. When fully operational, it will be able to carry 75,000 cubic feet of sediment-laden water per second.” The diversion, with an estimated \$1.4 billion price tag, “will help rebuild land that has disappeared over the past century.” Louisiana politicians have “lobbied furiously to expedite the permitting process.” They welcomed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in December, who “publicly vowed to slash red tape to get the project completed, saying the protection of Louisiana’s coast is a national concern, particularly because of its energy industry infrastructure.”

#### **Trump Kicks Off White House Annual Easter Egg Roll.**

NBC News (4/2) reports President Donald Trump kicked off the White House Easter Egg Roll on Monday. The annual event “got off to a damp start, but the skies had largely cleared, though it remained chilly, by the time Trump and the first lady walked down the stairs of the Blue Room balcony to join thousands of guests on the lawn.” Trump thanked his wife for doing an “incredible job” on the event, and “also praised the economy and a recent increase in funding for the military.” Trump said, “This is a special year. Our country is doing great. You look at the economy; you look at what’s happening.” The White House said it expected nearly 30,000 adults and children to “stream through the gates for the all-day event.”

CNN (4/1, Klein) reports the “140th White House Easter Egg Roll festivities were Melania Trump’s second crack at the event, and her first as a full-time White House resident. Last year, Trump, who was living in New York through the completion of the school year, oversaw the event, which marked a scaling-down and return to basics for the annual eggstravaganza.” The tradition dates back to the 1878, when President Rutherford B. Hayes allowed children to roll their eggs on the White House South Lawn. One hundred-forty years later, “the tradition continues, this year as a collaboration between the White House, the White House Historical Association, and the National Park Service.” Business Insider (4/2, Weiss) also reports on the event.

**FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

N/A



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018

**Daily Schedule**

**8:30am**            **Depart Residence en route Museum of the Bible**

**9:00am**            **Remarks at the Museum of the Bible**  
 Location: Museum of the Bible  
*Staff: Bullock, Argo*

**10:00am**           **Depart Museum of the Bible en route DOI**

**10:30am**           **Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting**  
 Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Hommel, Magallanes, Argo, Rigas, Tanner, Wynn*

**11:00am**           **Hold: Staff Time**  
 Location: Secretary's Office

**12:00pm**           **Lunch**  
 Location: Secretary's Office

**1:00pm**            **Drop by Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council Meeting**  
 Location: 5160 Conference Room  
*Staff: Sheehan*

**1:30pm**            **Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff**  
 Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Hommel*

**2:00pm**            **Personnel Interview**

**2:45pm**            **OPEN**

**3:15pm**            **Depart en route White House**

**3:30pm**            **Meeting with Chris Liddell and Bill McGinley**  
 Location: West Wing 223  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Hommel, Magallanes*

**4:00pm**            **White House Murder Board**  
 Location: Cabinet Affairs, EEOB 126  
*Staff: Hommel, Rigas, Swift*

**RON**                **Washington, DC**



**United States Department of the Interior**  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
**MEETING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**DATE:** April 3, 2018

**FROM:** Greg Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**SUBJECT:** Meeting of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council), a Federal Advisory Council chartered by the Department of the Interior

---

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Preparation to meet and address the members of the Council. The Council advises the Secretary of the Interior on matters important to our nation's anglers and boaters. The Secretary specifically requested the input of the Council to review Interior bureau's responses to Secretary Order 3347. We request the Secretary provide introductory remarks and welcome Council members at the start of the first day, or as available, over the two-day meeting. Council members also request the chance for a photo opportunity with the Secretary. The Council looks forward to working with the Secretary to help implement his priorities for recreational fishing and boating access.

### **I. MEETING DATE AND TIMES**

Wednesday April 4, 2018, 9:00am to 4:30pm EST and  
Thursday April 5, 2018, 8:00am to 2:30pm EST

Room 5160 Main Interior Building

### **II. PARTICIPANTS**

*Internal* – USFWS (Service) Principal Deputy Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation Assistant Director, Designated Federal Officer for Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Linda Friar), and other Service support staff.

*External - Members of the Council:*

Representative Members:

- John Arway (Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission)
- Janine Belleque (States Organization for Boating Access)
- Doug Boyd (Coastal Conservation Association)
- Chris Edmonston (BoatUS)
- Barb Gigar (Aquatic Resources Education Association)
- Fred Harris (American Fisheries Society)
- Betty Huskins (Southeast Tourism Policy Council) – Council Vice Chair



- Scott Kovarovics (Izaak Walton League of America) - Council Chair
- Eugene “Mac” McKeever (L.L. Bean)
- Jerry McKinnis (B.A.S.S.)
- Mike Nussman (American Sportfishing Association)
- Collin O’Mara (National Wildlife Federation)
- John Sprague (Marine Industries Association of Florida)
- Alvin Taylor (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources)
- T. Nicole Vasilaros (National Marine Manufacturers Association)
- Jim Zorn (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission)

Ex Officio Representatives:

- Steve Guertin, Service Deputy Director
- Virgil Moore, President, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Ron Regan, Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

### **III. BACKGROUND**

The Secretary of the Interior established the Council in January 1993, under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Council’s purpose is to provide advice to the Secretary, through the Director of the Service, on significant recreational fishing and boating and aquatic resource conservation issues. Over its 23-year history, the Council has established a strong record of achievement in providing sound advice to the Service and the Department on key issues. It has also promoted enhancement of partnerships among industry, stakeholder groups, and government.

The Council may consist of no more than 16 primary members and their alternates (if requested) as appointed by the Secretary for two-year terms per the Council’s charter. In addition, the Director of the Service and the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) are ex- officio members. Members must be senior-level representatives for recreational fishing, boating, and aquatic resource conservation and must have the ability to represent their designated constituencies.

The Council Charter and membership is renewed every other year. Currently the Charter is scheduled to be renewed in June of 2018 and all member terms of current Council expire August 6, 2018. Staff are currently working on the process to renew the charter and seek membership nominations that will go through the current Department review protocols.

Secretary Order 3347 - Subject: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, directed the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council to provide the Secretary with recommendations on how the Department can enhance and expand recreational fishing access on Department lands and with Department programs.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

The Secretary has requested that the Council meet as soon as possible to review and provide recommendations to the Department on the report prepared by the Directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service to the Assistant Secretaries of Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Lands and Minerals Management in response to Secretary's Order 3347 – Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation. The draft agenda also includes the nomination of a SFBPC representative to the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's board of directors, updates on several Service programs, and other Council business. The Secretary of the Interior has been invited to attend the meeting in order to brief the Council on his priorities.

#### **V. TALKING POINTS/REMARKS**

The Secretary may want to consider brief remarks on:

- Secretary's Priorities for fishing and boating and aquatic conservation.
- Secretary's Orders and Bureaus implementation efforts.
- Outdoor Recreational Access to Federal Lands.

#### **VI. NEXT STEPS**

The council will finalize their recommendations after the council meeting and provide these to the Secretary.

**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-04-04T21:51:18-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Memmorial tours  
**Received:** 2018-04-04T21:51:46-04:00

Pls contact and arrange. Z

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** mkwnhope <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** 04/04/2018 13:59 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Memmorial tours

Ryan

Great to see you this morning. If possible would love to take youu up on your offer for the memorial tour. We are with the Perry's  
And they would lovee to join us. They have a appointment with you ar 12:30. I think the 9:30 time would work.

Thanks  
Mike Hope

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8 Active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone



**To:** ryanzinke[REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Boulton, Caroline  
**Sent:** 2018-04-06T18:35:58-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** North Dakota Documents  
**Received:** 2018-04-06T18:36:37-04:00  
[Cramer Background and Heitkamp Top Hits\[3\].docx](#)  
[Convention Schedule.pdf](#)

The final schedule is still forthcoming; I will send to you when I receive it.  
Talking points from NRSC and the official convention schedule. The Solicitor's Office has

[REDACTED]  
(b)(5)

Your flight schedule is:

Saturday-  
8:30AM-10:11AM DCA to MSP (Delta 2063)  
11:30AM-12:49AM MSP to GFK (Delta 4850)

Sunday-  
7:50AM-9:13AM GFK to MSP (Delta 4849)  
10:33AM-2:00PM MSP to DCA (Delta 1764)

The security detail will pick you up tomorrow morning at 7:00AM.

--

Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403

## **CONGRESSMAN KEVIN CRAMER BACKGROUND**

Congressman Kevin Cramer is a North Dakota native, born in Rolla, North Dakota and raised in Kindred, North Dakota. He is deeply religious and frequently cites the importance of his Christian faith in shaping his personal and professional beliefs.

Congressman Cramer is a lifelong public servant and has served in the House of Representatives since 2013. Before being elected to the House of Representatives, he served as Chairman of the North Dakota Republican Party, State Economic Development and Finance Director, and on the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

He currently sits on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where he is a leading proponent for unleashing North Dakota and America's energy capabilities under an "all of the above" energy strategy. Beyond his legislative focuses, he prides himself on his accessibility, and has hosted the most town halls of any Member of Congress.

Unlike Senator Heitkamp, Congressman Cramer has a record of supporting the interests and values of North Dakotans. He has been one of President Trump's earliest and strongest allies and has consistently put the needs of North Dakotans first during his time in Washington.

## **CRAMER IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S AGENDA**

- Congressman Cramer was one of the first Members of Congress to endorse President Trump and helped advise President Trump's campaign on energy issues during the election
- President Trump returned the favor and has endorsed Congressman Cramer's Senate campaign
- Congressman Cramer has voted with President Trump's agenda nearly 100% of the time (98.5%)

## **CRAMER FIGHTS FOR LOWER TAXES AND POLICIES THAT INCREASE ECONOMIC GROWTH**

- Congressman Cramer voted for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which has led to bigger paychecks, higher wages, bonuses, increased investments and new job opportunities for hardworking North Dakotans
- He has repeatedly voted to repeal the Estate Tax, which is important for North Dakota's agriculture community
- Congressman Cramer has advocated for a strong free market system that prioritizes private sector growth through limited government interference and has worked to repeal burdensome regulations hurting North Dakota job creators and small businesses

## **CRAMER IS AN ADVOCATE FOR NORTH DAKOTA'S ENERGY INDUSTRY**

- Throughout his career, Congressman Cramer has focused on ensuring America's energy independence and supports an "all of the above" America first energy strategy that incorporates rolling back unnecessary regulations, reducing dependence on foreign sources and incentivizing American energy producers
- Congressman Cramer voted to overturn the harmful Obama-era methane rule that is hurting North Dakota energy producers

- During the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, Congressman Cramer publicly supported the Dakota Access Pipeline while opposing out-of-state, radical environmentalist protesters

#### **CRAMER STANDS WITH NORTH DAKOTA ON IMMIGRATION**

- Congressman Cramer is focused on protecting North Dakota communities and voted to defund sanctuary cities and voted for Kate's Law
- He believes illegal criminals deserve no sanctuary in America
- Congressman Cramer supported President Trump's Executive Order creating an enhanced vetting program for citizens of seven countries known for terrorism activities
- He supports a wall along the U.S./Mexico border, and invited the President of Fisher Industries as his guest to this year's State of the Union address
- Fisher Industries is one of the finalists selected to present a prototype for the wall

#### **CRAMER SUPPORTS REPEALING AND REPLACING OBAMACARE**

- To address the rising costs and limited health care choices resulting from President Obama's failed health care law, Congressman Cramer has repeatedly voted to repeal and replace Obamacare

#### **CRAMER DEFENDS NORTH DAKOTA VALUES**

- Guided by his Christian faith, Congressman Cramer has been a strong pro-life advocate
- He has a 100% score from the National Right to Life Committee
- Congressman Cramer is a cosponsor of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which bans abortion after 5 months, and the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which protect infants who are delivered alive after a failed abortion procedure
- Congressman Cramer said Heidi Heitkamp's vote against banning abortion after 5 months was "more like North Korea than North Dakota"
- Congressman Cramer has voted repeatedly to defund Planned Parenthood

#### **LINES OF ATTACK**

This race will provide a clear contrast between Heidi Heitkamp's record and Kevin Cramer's record. During her time in Washington, Senator Heitkamp has proven she's completely out of touch with North Dakotans. While personally likeable, Heitkamp's record shows she'd rather stand with Washington Democrats than North Dakota voters. This race will be won by highlighting her record as someone who is out of step with the people of North Dakota.

The NRSC has labeled Heitkamp, High Five Heidi, after she was seen high fiving Chuck Schumer on the Senate floor immediately following her vote against the 5-month abortion ban. Here's a rundown of 'Heidi's High Five':

#### **VOTED AGAINST TAX CUTS FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS**

- Heitkamp caved to the demands of her DC bosses and voted to deny North Dakota families the tax cut they deserve

#### **VOTED AGAINST CRACKING DOWN ON SANCTUARY CITIES**

- Heitkamp voted against punishing sanctuary cities that refuse to comply with federal immigration law

**VOTED REPEATEDLY TO KEEP OBAMACARE IN PLACE**

- Heitkamp has consistently voted against efforts to repeal Obamacare, which has burdened North Dakotans with higher costs and fewer choices

**VOTED AGAINST A 5-MONTH ABORTION BAN**

- Heitkamp not only voted against North Dakota values, but was caught celebrating her pro-abortion vote with a high five from party boss Chuck Schumer on the Senate Floor

**VOTED TO KEEP THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S HARMFUL BLM METHANE RULE IN PLACE**

- Despite claiming to be a defender of North Dakota's energy industry, Heitkamp was the deciding vote to keep the harmful BLM methane rule in place, which saddled ND energy producers with higher costs and more regulations





## FRIDAY APRIL 6, 2018

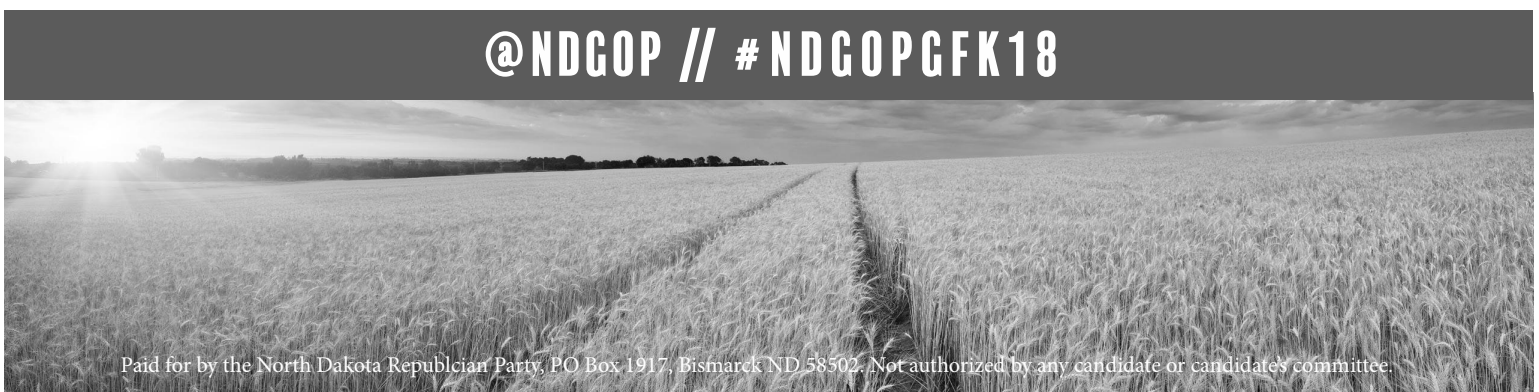
ALL ASPECTS OF THE SCHEDULE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

State Committee Meeting	1:00 - 3:00 PM
Registration with District Chairs	4:00 - 5:00 PM
House & Senate Caucus Meetings <i>Campaign Finance Update</i>	
General Registration Opens	5:00 PM
Hospitality Suites Open	
Committee Meetings <i>Resolutions &amp; Credentials</i>	5:00 - 6:00 PM
Page Orientation	
Governor's Club Dinner - <i>Ramada Inn &amp; Suites</i>	6:00 - 8:30 PM
General Registration Closes	9:00 PM

“ Welcome to Grand Forks for the 2018 NDGOP State Convention. We are thrilled that you’ve joined us!  
Now let’s get to work. ”

- Convention Planning Committee

@NDGOP // #NDGOPCFK18



# SA URDAY APRIL 7, 2018

<b>Registration Opens</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
<b>Silent Auction Opens</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>Vendor &amp; Candidate Booths Open</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>Convention Convenes</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
Call to Order	
Invocation	
Presentation of Colors	
Pledge of Allegiance	
National Anthem	
Welcome, Mayor Michael Brown	
Nomination of Temporary Chair and Secretary	
Appointment of Sergeant at Arms	
Appointment of Committees	
Credentials, Resolutions	
Appointment of Tellers and Parliamentarian	
Report of Credentials Committee	
Nomination and Election of Permanent Chair and Secretary	
Appointment of Assistant Chair and Assistant Secretary	
Adoption of the Agenda	
Speaker, Governor Doug Burgum	
Endorsement of Candidates	
Attorney General	
Tax Commissioner	
US Senate	
Speaker, Senator John Hoeven	
<b>Lunch - Legislative Luncheon</b>	
<b>Convention Reconvenes</b>	
Keynote Address	
Report from Elephants Celebrated	
Mock Delegate Election	
Report from the North Dakota College Republicans	
Endorsement of Candidates	
Public Service Commissioner (2 Year Term)	
U.S. House	
Report, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler	
Report, Insurance Commissioner Jon Godfread	
Report, State Auditor Josh Gallion	
<b>Hospitality Suites Open</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Saturday Night Party</b>	<b>7:00 - 11:30 PM</b>

# SUNDAY APRIL 8, 2018

Governor & First Lady's Faith & Recovery Breakfast	7:30 - 8:45 AM
Registration Opens	8:00 AM
Convention Reconvenes	9:00 AM
Call to Order	
Invocation	
Pledge of Allegiance	
National Anthem	
Welcome	
Former Governor Ed Schafer	
RNC Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel	
Report of Credentials Committee	
Report from Elephants Celebrated	
Report on Mock Delegate Election	
Report on Resolutions	
Report from the North Dakota Young Republicans	
Candidate Endorsements	
Agriculture Commissioner	
Public Service Commissioner (6 Year Term)	
Report from Public Service Commissioner Julie Fedorchak	
Candidate Endorsements	
Secretary of State	
Unfinished Business	
Adjournment	



**To:** ryanzinke [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**From:** Caroline Boulton  
**Sent:** 2018-04-06T19:38:39-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** ND Schedule  
**Received:** 2018-04-06T19:38:46-04:00  
[ATT00001.txt](#)  
[Event Memo - 2018-04-07 - Keynote Address to the NDGOP State Convention.docx](#)

Attached is most up to date schedule! Dinner attire will be jeans and blazer, same as for the convention

Sent from my iPhone

**MR. RYAN K. ZINKE'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE NORTH DAKOTA REPUBLICAN  
PARTY ENDORSING CONVENTION**

Saturday, April 7, 2018

2:00 p.m. (CDT)

Alerus Center (1200 S 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201)

Roz Leighton

I. PURPOSE

To deliver the keynote address creating election year excitement, emphasizing the national importance of the U.S. Senate race in North Dakota, and to encourage involvement in the Republican Party.

II. BACKGROUND

The North Dakota Republican Party (NDGOP) State Endorsing Convention is a biennial convention where North Dakota Republicans endorse candidates for the primary election (June 12, 2018). The 2018 Convention will be attended by more than 1,700 delegate, alternates, and guests, the largest non-Presidential election year Convention in recent memory. Delegates will endorse candidates for 8 statewide offices, most notably the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House. The U.S. House race to replace U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer is highly contested, with state Sen. Kelly Armstrong and state Sen. Tom Campbell currently serving as the frontrunners. Armstrong, the former NDGOP Chairman, has said he will abide by the results of the Convention, whereas Campbell has not committed to doing the same.

North Dakota's 2018 U.S. Senate race will be one of the most competitive in the nation. Incumbent U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp is seen as deeply vulnerable in a Republican state that voted for President Trump over Hillary Clinton by nearly 36 points. Heitkamp opposed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, citing her time as the State Tax Commissioner in her opposition. According to a recent analysis of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act completed by the Tax Policy Center, North Dakotans will see the largest average tax reduction in the nation, 10.8 percent, or \$2,170. The North Dakota Democratic Party recently endorsed Heitkamp in her bid for reelection.

The President has visited North Dakota one time since elected President. On September 6, 2017, President Trump delivered remarks at the Andeavor Refinery in Mandan, ND promoting his tax reform plan. On said visit, Senator Heitkamp travelled with the President on Air Force 1. At the event, he brought her on stage with Governor Burgum, Senator Hoeven and Congressman Cramer, and called her a "good woman".

During the 2016 Presidential election, President Trump hosted one rally in North Dakota. On May 25 he delivered the keynote address to the North Dakota Petroleum Council's Williston Basin Petroleum Conference. Before those remarks, the North Dakota delegates to the Republican National Convention endorsed Trump, allowing him to surpass the 1,237 national delegates needed to secure the Republican nomination for President.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Description of event: The NDGOP State Endorsing Convention is a biennial event where Republicans from across the state gather to endorse candidates and rally Republicans prior to the primary and general elections.

Elected Officials: Statewide elected officials from North Dakota who will be present at the event. Those designated by an asterisk (\*) are seeking reelection, and the party's endorsement. The exception being U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer, who is seeking the U.S. Senate endorsement.

- **Doug Burgum**, *Governor*
- **John Hoeven**, *U.S. Senator*
- **\*Kevin Cramer**, *U.S. Representative*
- **Brent Sanford**, *Lieutenant Governor*
- **\*Al Jaeger**, *Secretary of State*
- **\*Wayne Stenehjem**, *Attorney General*
- **Kelly Schmidt**, *State Treasurer*
- **Josh Gallion**, *State Auditor*
- **Jon Godfread**, *State Insurance Commissioner*
- **\*Doug Goehring**, *State Agriculture Commissioner*
- **\*Ryan Rauschenberger**, *State Tax Commissioner*
- **Julie Fedorchak**, *Public Service Commissioner*
- **\*Randy Christmann**, *Public Service Commissioner*
- **\*Brian Kroshus**, *Public Service Commissioner*
- **Kirsten Baesler**, *State Superintendent of Public Instruction*

Political objective: To promote the national importance of the U.S. Senate race

IV. PRESS PLAN

**OPEN – All press with credentials are free to attend**

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Saturday April 7, 2018

- 12:50 p.m. YOU arrive Grand Forks International Airport (GFK)
- 1:00 p.m. YOU depart Grand Forks International Airport (GFK) en route to the Alerus Center
- 2:00 p.m. YOU arrive at hold location backstage

Met By:

Chairman Rick Berg  
*Former U.S. Representative from North Dakota*

2:05 p.m. YOU are introduced by Chairman Berg

**Press: OPEN**

2:10 p.m. YOU arrive on stage and deliver keynote remarks

**Press: OPEN**

2:40 p.m. YOU conclude remarks

3:00 p.m. Interview with John Hageman, *Forum News Services*

3:20 p.m. Interview with Gary Emineth, *KFYR Radio*

3:40 p.m. Interview with James MacPherson, *Associated Press*

4:00 p.m. OPEN

6:00 p.m. *FYI – Candidate hospitality rooms open*

*PH Level 1*

7:00 p.m. *FYI – NDGOP Convention Party begins*

*Playmakers Lounge, Canad Inn and Suites*

8:00 p.m. Dinner

Sky's Restaurant, 322 Demers Ave, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Participants:

- **Doug Burgum**, *Governor*
- **Kathryn Helgaas Burgum**, *First Lady*
- **John Hoeven**, *U.S. Senator*
- **Mikey (Mike-E) Hoeven**, *Sen. Hoeven's Wife*
- **Kevin Cramer**, *U.S. Representative*
- **Kris Cramer**, *Rep. Cramer's Wife*
- **Brent Sanford**, *Lieutenant Governor*
- **Sandy Sanford**, *Lt. Gov's Wife*

11:30 p.m. *FYI – NDGOP Convention Party concludes*

*Playmakers Lounge, Canad Inn and Suites*

**RON – Canad Inn and Suites (1200 S 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201)**



Sunday April 8, 2018

7:50 a.m. YOU depart Grand Forks International Airport (GFK) for Washington Reagan International Airport (DCA)

2:00 p.m. (ET) YOU arrive Washington Reagan International Airport (DCA)

VI. TALKING POINTS OR REMARKS

Talking points prepared by the National Republican Senatorial Committee have been provided.

**To:** Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-04-09T15:37:44-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] JAG  
**Received:** 2018-04-09T15:37:56-04:00  
[Jag AutoIDCard.pdf](#)

**For Roadside Assistance: 800-531-8555**

**Report a claim, get coverage and deductible information, request a tow from the accident scene, schedule an appraisal or reserve a rental car using:**

- **usaa.com,**
- **USAA's Mobile App, or**
- **By calling 210-531-USAA (8722), our mobile phone shortcut number #8722 or 800-531-USAA.**

01/09/18

**Automobile Insurance Identification Card**

**This identification card is evidence of liability insurance for your vehicle. The card is valid only as long as liability insurance remains in force.**

**You may be required to produce your identification card at vehicle registration or inspection, when applying for a driver's license, following an accident or upon a law enforcement officer's request.**

**Keep a copy of the ID card in your vehicle at all times.**

**For your convenience, additional copies are available on usaa.com.**

FDC1 Rev. 6-13

50785-0513\_01

UNITED SERVICES AUTOMOBILE ASSN  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION CARD

NAME RYAN K ZINKE  
LOLITA C ZINKE

POLICY NUMBER  
(b)(6)

EFFECTIVE DATE 01/09/18 TO 07/09/18

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION  
YEAR MAKE/MODEL VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER  
(b)(6)

9800 Fredericksburg Road San Antonio, Texas 78288  
Additional copies available at usaa.com

**CONTACT US: 210-531-USAA(8722)  
OR 800-531-USAA**

**To:** Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-04-10T10:35:52-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: SUMMER INTERNSHIPS  
**Received:** 2018-04-10T10:36:02-04:00

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** William Hileman <will@whitefishlaw.com>  
**To:** Ryan Zinke <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Caroline Personal <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 1, 2018 6:09 PM  
**Subject:** Re: SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Thanks Ryan - you are the best!  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 31, 2018, at 4:08 PM, Ryan Zinke <(b)(6)> wrote:

Congratulations judge! I have ccd caroline to provide details. Also, an intern in congressional with daines or greg may be an option as well. Let's keep in touch. Z

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Bill Hileman <will@whitefishlaw.com>  
**Date:** 03/30/2018 07:01 (GMT-10:00)  
**To:** Ryan & Lola ZINKE <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Bill Hileman <will@whitefishlaw.com>  
**Subject:** SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Hon. Secretary,

Hope all is going well in Washington! Holly is loving her studies at Georgetown, and Hayley is having a great time with golf, joined a sorority, and I believe occasionally engages in academic pursuits! Susan and I are meeting the girls in Seattle for Easter - nothing better than being together for the holiday.

As we spoke during our visit to your office in DC (thanks again!), Hayley and or Holly would be very much interested in an internship with the Interior this summer. Would you be so kind as to provide us with contact information for who to reach out to for additional information ( couldn't find on the website but did like the articles and photos).

Wishing your family a very blessed and Happy Easter, and look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you,  
Judge Will

William Hileman, Jr.

(b)(6)

[will@whitefishlaw.com](mailto:will@whitefishlaw.com)

Sent from my iPad

**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor[elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-04-11T14:48:57-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Scanned document from HP ePrint user  
**Received:** 2018-04-11T14:49:39-04:00  
[filename-1.pdf](#)

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Lolita Zinke <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** 04/10/2018 13:28 (GMT-06:00)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Scanned document from HP ePrint user

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [eprintcenter@hp.com](mailto:eprintcenter@hp.com)  
**Date:** April 10, 2018 at 11:26:29 AM PDT  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Scanned document from HP ePrint user  
**Reply-To:** (b)(6)

This email and attachment are sent on behalf of (b)(6).

If you do not want to receive this email in future, you may contact (b)(6) directly or you may consult your email application for spam or junk email filtering options.

Regards,  
HP Team



**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor[elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-04-11T14:49:41-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Scanned document from HP ePrint user  
**Received:** 2018-04-11T14:50:58-04:00  
[filename-1.pdf](#)

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Lolita Zinke <[REDACTED] (b)(6)>  
**Date:** 04/10/2018 13:28 (GMT-06:00)  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Scanned document from HP ePrint user

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [eprintcenter@hp.com](mailto:eprintcenter@hp.com)  
**Date:** April 10, 2018 at 11:26:29 AM PDT  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Scanned document from HP ePrint user  
**Reply-To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)

This email and attachment are sent on behalf of [REDACTED] (b)(6).

If you do not want to receive this email in future, you may contact [REDACTED] (b)(6) directly or you may consult your email application for spam or junk email filtering options.

Regards,  
HP Team





**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel (b)(6)  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-04-12T18:44:28-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Re: SUMMER INTERNSHIPS  
**Received:** 2018-04-12T18:45:12-04:00

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** William Hileman <will@whitefishlaw.com>  
**Date:** 04/01/2018 19:09 (GMT-06:00)  
**To:** Ryan Zinke <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Caroline Personal <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Thanks Ryan - you are the best!  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 31, 2018, at 4:08 PM, Ryan Zinke <(b)(6)> wrote:

Congratulations judge! I have ccd caroline to provide details. Also, an intern in congressional with daines or greg may be an option as well. Let's keep in touch.  
Z

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Bill Hileman <will@whitefishlaw.com>  
**Date:** 03/30/2018 07:01 (GMT-10:00)  
**To:** Ryan & Lola ZINKE <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Bill Hileman <will@whitefishlaw.com>  
**Subject:** SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Hon. Secretary,

Hope all is going well in Washington! Holly is loving her studies at Georgetown, and Hayley is having a great time with golf, joined a sorority, and I believe occasionally engages in academic pursuits! Susan and I are meeting the girls in Seattle for Easter - nothing better than being together for the holiday.  
As we spoke during our visit to your office in DC (thanks again!), Hayley and or

Holly would be very much interested in an internship with the Interior this summer. Would you be so kind as to provide us with contact information for who to reach out to for additional information ( couldn't find on the website but did like the articles and photos).

Wishing your family a very blessed and Happy Easter, and look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you,

Judge Will

William Hileman, Jr.

(b)(6)

[will@whitefishlaw.com](mailto:will@whitefishlaw.com)

Sent from my iPad

**To:** Aaron Thiele[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b)(6)]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Werner[elinor\_werner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[Laura\_Rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Leila Getto[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; Luke Bullock[wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov]; Mike Argo[michael\_argo@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Zinke[cdr06@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Boulton, Caroline  
**Sent:** 2018-04-13T16:24:53-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Electronic Briefing Book: 4.14.18/4.16.18  
**Received:** 2018-04-13T16:25:35-04:00  
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 4-13-18.docx](#)  
[Event Memo - Sen. Toomey Call.docx](#)  
[RKZ Daily Schedule 4.14.18.docx](#)  
[RKZ Daily Schedule 4.16.18.docx](#)  
[AFN Alaska Day Memo.docx](#)  
[Meeting Memo -- Ducks Unlimited Reception.docx](#)  
[0413 AFN remarks draft.docx](#)

All,  
Attached is the schedule and briefing book for Saturday and Monday.

Best,  
Caroline

**Daily Schedule: Saturday, April 14**

**8:30am** Depart Residence en route H-1 Stables  
**9:00am** Arrive H-1 Stables; Proceed to Constitution Ave  
**10:00am** Cherry Blossom Parade  
Location: Constitution Ave from 7<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> St NW  
**RON** Washington, DC

**Daily Schedule: Monday, April 16**

**8:30am** Depart Residence en route White House  
**9:00am** Breakfast Meeting  
Location: White House Navy Mess  
*Staff: None*  
**10:00am** Depart en route DOI  
**10:30am** Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Hommel, Magallanes, Argo, Rigas, Tanner, Wynn*  
**11:00am** Depart en route Hyatt Regency  
**11:30am** Alaska Day Conference  
Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

*Staff: Deputy Secretary*

**1:15pm** Meeting with Mike  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Argo*

**1:30pm** Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Hommel*

**2:00pm** Call with Senator Toomey  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Tanner, Magallanes*

**3:30pm** Personnel Interview  
Location: Secretary's Conference Room  
*Staff: Mashburn*

**4:00pm** Hold: Lincoln Tour

**5:00pm** Remarks at Ducks Unlimited and Wetlands America Trust Reception  
Location: The Metropolitan Club  
*Staff: Cassidy, Bullock*

**RON** Washington, DC

--

Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403



MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018

**Daily Schedule**

**8:30am**            **Depart Residence en route White House**

**9:00am**            **Breakfast Meeting**  
Location: White House Navy Mess  
*Staff: None*

**10:00am**           **Depart en route DOI**

**10:30am**           **Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Hommel, Magallanes, Argo, Rigas, Tanner, Wynn*

**11:00am**           **Depart en route Hyatt Regency**

**11:30am**           **Alaska Day Conference**  
Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary*

**1:15pm**            **Meeting with Mike**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Argo*

**1:30pm**            **Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Hommel*

**2:00pm**            **Call with Senator Toomey**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Tanner, Magallanes*

**3:30pm**            **Personnel Interview**  
Location: Secretary's Conference Room  
*Staff: Mashburn*

**4:00pm**            **Hold: Lincoln Tour**

**5:00pm**            **Remarks at Ducks Unlimited and Wetlands America Trust Reception**  
Location: The Metropolitan Club  
*Staff: Cassidy, Bullock*

**RON**                **Washington, DC**



**United States Department of the Interior**  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
**MEETING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**DATE:** Monday, April 16th 2018  
**TIME:** 5:00pm until 7:00pm  
**FROM:** Benjamin Cassidy, Senior Deputy Director for Intergovernmental and External Affairs in the Immediate Office of the Secretary  
**SUBJECT:** Remarks at Ducks Unlimited and Wetlands America Trust Reception

---

**I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

For the Secretary to address the Board of Ducks Unlimited and Wetlands America Trust regarding his hunting access priorities and acknowledge the role of Ducks Unlimited in conservation.

**II. PARTICIPANTS**

*Internal*

Secretary Ryan Zinke  
Greg Sheehan, FWS Acting Director  
Benjamin Cassidy, Senior Deputy Director for External and Intergovernmental Affairs

*External*

See below

**III. BACKGROUND**

This is an annual reception to thank agency partners and leaders for their work with Ducks Unlimited. The audience is made up of Wetlands America Trust and Ducks Unlimited board members, agency partners, corporate partners. The host, DU, is one of the most respected and influential conservation organizations in the country. The delivery of our conservation work (over 14 million acres conserved since 1937) is done in partnership with several federal and state agency partners. The Department of Interior is one of our most valued partners. DU has over 740,000 dues paying members and over 1.5 million supporters follow us on social media.

**IV. DISCUSSION**

**V. TALKING POINTS/REMARKS**

**VI. NEXT STEPS**

**Attendees:**

***PRESIDENT***

*Steve Maritz* is Chairman and CEO of Maritz LLC in St. Louis, Missouri. He is active on a variety of community and national boards, an avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending

time with family. Steve is a member of the historic Dardenne Club at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and Waterhen Lodge in Canada. He also owns a conservation/hunting property in Missouri – Craghurst – where he actively works to improve the habitat for deer, turkey and quail.

***VICE PRESIDENT***

***Doug Oberhelman*** is the Chairman and CEO of Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria, Illinois and also serves on the Board of Directors of ExxonMobil Corporation. He is the chairman of WAT's Governance and Nominating Committee. Doug's wife Diane serves as an At-Large Member of Ducks Unlimited's Board of Directors. Avid outdoor enthusiasts, Doug and Diane have transformed their Quail Lakes property in Illinois – a former surface mine - into a home for a myriad of endangered bird species and other wild creatures with wetlands, grasslands, lakes and a working farm.

***SECRETARY/TREASURER***

***Wendell Weakley*** is the President and CEO of the University of Mississippi Foundation. He was elected Treasurer of the Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Board of Directors in May 2015 and stepped into his role in WAT at the same time. An avid duck hunter and dedicated volunteer, Wendell has served as an Assistant Treasurer on the Board since 2010 and resides in Oxford, Mississippi.

***CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER***

***Dan Thiel*** is COO for Wetlands America Trust and Executive Secretary of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. He enjoys hunting and fishing with his sons and collecting books, guns, decoys and art related to duck hunting.



## **TRUSTEES**

**James (Jim) W. Ayers** is a west Tennessee businessman who is the owner and President of Ayers Asset Management, Inc., Chairman of the Board of First Bank and Founder of the Ayers Foundation. A lifelong waterfowler and passionate supporter of DU's mission, Jim is a partner in the Grassy Lake Hunt Club – near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in Kentucky.

**John W. Berry Jr.** is the CEO of Berry Investments, Inc. in Dayton, Ohio, and President of the Berry Family Foundation. A resident of Naples, Florida, John's interests include hunting, tennis, shooting and camping.

**Paul R. Bonderson Jr.** was the co-founder and Vice President of Engineering for Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. and is now retired to his home in Sunol, California. In May 2015, he was elected Ducks Unlimited's 43<sup>rd</sup> President at the annual National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His interests include hunting, managing his hunting property – Bird Haven - and restoring and collecting antique cars and hot rods.

**Gary Butler** is the former CEO and President of Automatic Data Processing (ADP). After more than 37 years with ADP, Gary retired in 2011 to Florida and Bluffton, South Carolina, and currently serves as Senior Trustee of the Gary C. Butler Charitable Family Foundation. He is an avid waterfowl and upland bird enthusiast and conservationist.

**John S. Dale** recently retired as Principal and Portfolio Manager for Peregrine Capital Management in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A member of Waterhen Lodge in Canada, John is a lifelong waterfowler and angler.

**William F. (Bill) D'Alonzo** retired as the Chairman and CEO of Friess Associates, which manages the Brandywine family of mutual funds. He is the owner of TCF Enterprises LLC – farming, real estate and investments and Ducks Unlimited's Senior Vice President of Corporate Relations. A resident of Naples, Florida, his interests include hunting, golf, spending time with his family and managing his recreational properties in Maryland and Delaware.

***Skipper Dickson*** is Chairman and CEO of Sports South, the oldest American distributor of firearms and ammunition, and works alongside his brother at the other family business Morris & Dickson, a pharmaceutical wholesale company based in Shreveport, Louisiana. Skipper is a committed conservationist and an avid waterfowl enthusiast who enjoys sharing a duck blind with friends and family.

***George H. Dunklin, Jr.*** is the Owner and President of Dunklin Holding Company, LLC and Vice President of Five Oaks Investments, LLC. Ducks Unlimited Inc.'s 42<sup>nd</sup> President, George became Chairman of the Board in May 2015. George oversees the operations of Five Oaks Duck Lodge in Stuttgart, Arkansas – a premier facility which has hosted many Ducks Unlimited and Wetlands America Trust meetings.

***Doug Frey*** is the former owner of Desert Industrial X-Ray LP. After the recent sale of his company and more than 30 years in all phases of oil exploration and production, Doug is spending more time afield - in both his home state of Texas and the Platte River/Rainwater Basin of Nebraska - pursuing two of his passions: waterfowl and conservation.

***David F. (Dave) Grohne*** is President and Founder of Independence Tube Corporation in Chicago, Illinois. Dave's interests include hunting, golf and fishing. Dave is a long-time member of the historic Senachwine Duck Club in Illinois.

***H. Dale Hall*** is the Chief Executive Officer of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Prior to joining DU, he served as the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

***Rogers S. Hoyt, Jr.***, of Uvalde, Texas, was recently elected First Vice President of Ducks Unlimited's Board of Directors. A rancher by profession and a member of the Board since 1996, Rogers also serves as President of Ducks Unlimited de Mexico (DUMAC) and a member of the Ducks Unlimited Canada Board.

***Orrin H. Ingram II*** is President and CEO of Ingram Industries Inc. Orrin manages hunting properties in Tennessee, Kentucky and Florida and owns Shelby Lake Lodge in Kentucky. An accomplished and passionate polo player, he is a former Chairman of the United States Polo Association, an Honorary Director of the Polo Training Foundation and hosts charity polo games at his RiverView Farm in Franklin, Tennessee.

***James C. (Jim) Kennedy*** is a past member of the Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Board of Directors and former president of Wetlands America Trust. He enjoys spending time

and hunting on his recreational properties - his favorites being York Woods in Mississippi and Trailsend Ranch in Montana. Jim is the Chairman of the Board of Cox Enterprises in Atlanta, Georgia.

*Jim Konkel* currently serves as Chairman of the National Shoot Committee and a member of Ducks Unlimited Canada's Board. Jim's volunteer and philanthropic leadership spans nearly four decades and includes twelve elections to the DUI Board of Directors. He enjoys time in the blind, fishing and supporting numerous local charities in and around his hometown of Scarborough, Maine.

*Bruce Lauritzen* is Chairman of First National Bank of Omaha, in Omaha, Nebraska. His family history with Ducks Unlimited goes back to the 1950s. He is an avid outdoorsman and world traveler.

*Andrew Lundquist* is WAT's newest Trustee having joined the group in December 2015. He is Senior Vice President, Government Affairs for ConocoPhillips, responsible for the company's state, federal and international policy and government affairs activities. Before joining ConocoPhillips, Andrew was managing partner of BlueWater Strategies LLC and served in leadership roles at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

*David McLean* is Chairman of the McLean Group in Canada and lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. He retired as Chairman of the Board of CN Railway in April 2014 after 19 years with the company. He enjoys waterfowl and upland bird hunting.

*Johnny Morris* is Founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, and his son *John Paul Morris* is General Manager of Bass Pro Shops' online store. Along with a generous philanthropic commitment to DU, Johnny and Springfield, Missouri-based Bass Pro Shops donated space for the *Ducks Unlimited Waterfowling Heritage Center* in the Memphis Pyramid which opened in April 2015.

*John Nau* of Houston, Texas is the Owner, President and CEO of Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P., one of America's leading beer wholesalers. John is Chairman Emeritus of the Civil War Preservation Trust and owner of the Shoalwater Bay Club in Port O'Connor. He enjoys golf, hunting, jogging and reading history.

*Dan Ray* is Managing Director and Global Head of Project Finance for Jefferies LLC and owns Annandale Plantation in the Lowcountry of South Carolina, held under a conservation easement with Ducks Unlimited. He is active in a variety of community

and national charitable organizations, an avid outdoorsman, and enjoys spending time with family and friends. Dan is the chairman of WAT's Development Committee.

*Mark Stitzer* is CEO of Hamlin Capital Management, LLC in New York. He and his family enjoy a variety of outdoor activities.

*Matthew (Matt) Stuller, Sr.* is the Chairman, President and CEO of Stuller, Inc. – an international maker and distributor of fine jewelry based in Lafayette, Louisiana – and an officer of the Stuller Family Foundation. Matt is a member of Oak Ridge Lodge in Broussard, Louisiana.

*John W. Thompson* is the CEO of privately-held Virtual Instruments and Chairman of the Board for Microsoft – succeeding company founder Bill Gates. An active investor in early-stage technology companies, John is the former Chairman and CEO of Symantec Corporation and general manager of IBM Americas. John is an ardent duck and upland bird hunter.

*John A. Tomke* is the current Chairman of Ducks Unlimited de Mexico (DUMAC), past President of both Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and DUMAC and chairman of WAT's Government Affairs Committee. John is retired as VP of Global Operations at Dow AgroSciences in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is Chairman of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, Board Member of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and of the Boone & Crocket Club and a member of the Waterhen Lodge.

*William E. (Will) Walker III* is the President of Jackson Air Charter in Jackson, Mississippi and a Trustee of the Walker Foundation. His family history with wetlands conservation goes back many generations. Will is an active hunter.

*David K. (Deke) Welles Jr.* is the former Chairman and CEO of Therma-Tru in Maumee, Ohio [founded in 1962 by his father, David K. Welles Sr.]. Deke enjoys hunting, fly fishing, skiing and sailing. Deke is a member of the Winous Point Shooting Club, Waterhen Lodge and the Rolling Rock Club.

***EMERITUS TRUSTEES***

***Rosemarie Buntrock***  
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

***Hazard Campbell***  
Vero Beach, Florida

***John Childs***  
Vero Beach, Florida

***William (Billy) B. Dunavant, Jr.***  
Memphis, Tennessee

***Gene Henry***  
Rogers, Arkansas

***Bob Hester***  
Memphis, Tennessee

***Kenneth Hofmann***  
Concord, California

***Jim Hulbert***  
Cathlamet, Washington

***Bruce Lewis***  
Woodville, Mississippi

***L.J. Mayeux, Jr., M.D.***  
Marksville, Louisiana

***Philip (Phil) McNeill, Sr.***  
Germantown, Tennessee

***John Newman***

Covington, Louisiana

***Saf Peacock***  
Lincoln, Illinois

***John Pope***  
Jacksonville, Florida

***Donald (Don) Rollins***  
Carmel, Indiana

***Tod Sedgwick***  
Marshall, Virginia

***Reed (Beau) Turner***  
Atlanta, Georgia

***Julius Wall***  
Clinton, Missouri

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 4/13/2018**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Deputy White House Liaison

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

**THIS WEEK:**

- 4/13: Lunch with Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer
  - Interview with NYT Reporter Julie Turkewitz
  - Internal Meetings
- 4/14: Participate in Cherry Blossom Parade

**NEXT WEEK:**

- 4/16: Breakfast meeting at White House
  - Alaska Day Conference
  - Call with Sen. Pat Toomey
  - Remarks at Ducks Unlimited and Wetlands America Trust Reception
- 4/17: Lunch Meeting with SBA Administrator McMahon
  - Drop by Dayton Development Council Meeting
  - Dinner with Rep. Gianforte and Sen. Daines
- 4/18: Meeting with 250 U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission Chair Daniel DiLella
  - Cabinet Meeting
  - Meeting with Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) RD James
  - Meeting with Rep. Greg Walden (OR)
  - Meeting with Outdoor Industry Alliance
- 4/19: Meeting with National Sheriffs Association
  - Travel to Dallas, TX
- 4/20 TX: Remarks at EarthX in Dallas for Earth Day
  - Travel back to DC
- 4/21: Drive to NY to begin National Park Week tour

**STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: In DC meeting with Julie Kitka, President of Alaska Federation of Natives and conducting internal meetings.

**OPIOID CRISIS**

**Prescribed to Death: Opioid Crisis Memorial Opens**

<http://youtu.be/KLYXPRk4fw>

22,000 Americans die every year from prescription opioid overdoses. A new Memorial in just steps from the White House, puts a literal face on each opioid death to bring awareness of this “crisis next door.”

The memorial will be open through April 18. To learn more about the Trump Administration’s fight against the Opioid crisis, visit [www.CrisisNextDoor](http://www.CrisisNextDoor), or [www.WhiteHouse.gov/Opioids](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/Opioids)

**WH COMMS REPORT (Submitted 4/12)**

**Press Inquiries:**

- Many small and logistical inquiries.
- **The Guardian** (Jimmy Tobias) —**REQUEST**— I am looking at Vincent DeVito’s role in delaying the ESA listing of the Texas Hornshell mussel for six months last year. Emails between Mr. DeVito and the oil

and gas trade group IPAA show that he responded directly to the IPAA's request that the mussel listing be delayed. I am also taking a look at Mr. DeVito's activities in West Virginia, where documents show he took a trip organized by the West Virginia Coal Association and intervened in both the permitting of the new Berwind mine and also signed off on a guidance document to direct Fish and Wildlife Service efforts to conserve endangered crayfish imperiled by mining activities there. I have just a few brief questions: 1. Does the Interior Department allow political appointees without scientific training to intervene directly in Endangered Species Act listing processes? 2. Does the Interior Department allow political appointees without scientific training to intervene directly in Fish and Wildlife Service policies regarding endangered species conservation? 3. Do you have any comment on the trip Mr. DeVito took to West Virginia, which emails show was organized by the West Virginia Coal Association? —**RESPONSE**— On the general description of the article you sent, DeVito had no role in the listing of the Texas Hornshell mussel. To my understanding, the document you're referencing was an email he received and then an email he sent which confirmed receipt of the original email. Additionally, Mr. DeVito was invited to West Virginia by the WVDEP. Concerning questions 1 and 2: This is a false question. The Endangered Species Act specifically states that "The Secretary, by regulation promulgated in accordance with subsection (b) and to the maximum extent prudent and determinable— (i) shall, concurrently with making a determination under paragraph (1) that a species is an endangered species or a threatened species, designate any habitat of such species which is then considered to be critical habitat; and (ii) may, from time-to-time thereafter as appropriate, revise such designation." I'd also encourage you to see many of the secretary's previous comments about scientific integrity where he lays out his position that political appointees are not at the Department to manipulate data, they are here to make informed decisions and policy. At no point has political leadership changed the science of any report.

- **Medill News Service** (Shelby Fleig) —**REQUEST**— I would like to give the Department the opportunity to respond to a [statement](#) by Sen. Maria Cantwell last week. "I welcome GAO's recommendation to pass responsible legislation making coal companies clean up pollution. Secretary Zinke should also reverse course and crack down on this irresponsible coal mining practice," said Senator Cantwell. —**RESPONSE**— As the secretary noted in the hearing with Sen. Cantwell, the recommendations were made to Congress and welcomes the GAO's attention to the matter.
- **BuzzFeed News, CNN, MONEY** — **REQUEST**— Can you confirm that entrance fees at national parks nationwide (at least the ones that already charge entrance fees) will rise by \$5 in June? And can you tell me why the original proposal of a \$70 increase was modified? —**RESPONSE**— Sent to NPS
- **Politico** (Ben Lefebvre) — **REQUEST**— I'm writing a follow-up to the Channel Islands tour from last April. I know I already asked you versions of some of these questions, but thought I'd just give you a heads up that the story is set to go out in the next day or two, depending on edits. So with that in mind, was hoping to get answers to the following questions in the next 24 hours: Did Jon Jorgenson, a donor to Sec. Zinke's Congressional campaigns, pay for his own part of the Channel Island tour? Did Jorgenson being employed at the same place the Zinkes bought their yacht have anything to do with his being invited on the tour? Did he personally sell the yacht to the Zinkes? Why did Interior staff consistently misspell Jorgenson's name as "Jorgesen" in official documents? Chris Wiggins was described as a "subject matter experts on the Channel Islands" in official Interior documents. Chris Wiggins runs an Alabama-based maritime security firm. What knowledge of the Channel Islands did he bring to the tour? — **RESPONSE**— TBD

- **Law360** (Adam Lidgett) — **REQUEST**— I'm doing a story on the DOI's new joint task force's first raid seizing 49 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of \$2.5 million and more than \$20,000 worth of marijuana, plus smaller amounts of heroin, and other narcotics. I was looking to see if the DOI had any further comment and to answer some questions, specifically 1) were any of those arrested members of any Native American tribes 2) were any of the "other narcotics" mentioned prescription opioids? —**RESPONSE**— TBD
- **Law360** (Adam Lidgett) — **REQUEST**— Working on a story about the Senate Indian Affairs Committee's approval yesterday of the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act, S. 2515, which would amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to streamline DOI's self-governance process. Please let me know if a DOI representative would be available to comment on whether the department supports the proposed revisions, or if there's an official statement available. —**RESPONSE**— TBD

#### Top Stories:

- **The Hill:** [Zinke backs off plan for big national park fee increases](#)
- **AP:** [Reassigned Interior employees blame politics, climate work](#)
- **The Hill:** [Seeking to right the wrong of ending protection to Bears Ears](#)
- **Washington Examiner:** [Ryan Zinke to raise park fees \\$5 after backing off huge hikes](#)
- **Salt Lake Tribune:** [Entrance fees to go up by \\$5 at Utah's national parks — and most others across U.S. — after feds scrap plan to double some of those charges](#)

#### Top Issues, Accomplishments, & Awareness:

- Tomorrow, April 13, Secretary Zinke will travel to Nevada with VPOTUS for a tax reform event. The Secretary will also have a year in review interview with the New York Times. Thursday, April 19th, Secretary Zinke will deliver a speech in Dallas to Earth X. Topic: conservation & the environment (Earth Day).
- April 21-30 - NATIONAL PARKS WEEK - Secretary Zinke will drive from upstate NY down to Tennessee and visit National Park Service sites along the way to publicize the President's plan to rebuild infrastructure in National Parks. **Preparing a request for VP Pence to accompany the Secretary at Great Smoky Mountains.**
- Wednesday, May 9, Secretary Zinke will testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- May 18-30 Travel through Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming to meet with Tribal Nations, National Park Service leadership, and deliver energy speeches.
  - Several meetings with Tribal Nations on the opioid crisis and other priorities
  - Speech at the Williston Basin Petroleum Council
  - National Park Service meetings on overcrowding and infrastructure

#### **AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 4/11)**

##### **WEEK AHEAD April 11 thru April 19, 2018**

##### Announcements/Releases/Events

##### *Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews*

- This week Secretary Zinke is in Washington, D.C.
- **April 11:** Secretary Zinke testified before the House Appropriations Committee on FY19 Budget.
- **April 11:** Secretary Zinke participated with Kellyanne and Sec. Azar at an event in front of the White House supporting the White House's push to end the opioid crisis. We issued a press release on our recent successful law enforcement actions in NM.



- **April 12 and 16:** We expect a series of IG reports to be made public. We have shared statements with the WH.
- **April 19:** Secretary plans to travel to Dallas, TX, to give remarks at the EARTHx conference.
- **April 21-29: National Park Week** – Secretary Zinke will visit multiple parks and participate in a series of events to celebrate National Park Week. Scheduled stops include Saratoga National Historical Park, Fort Stanwix National Monument, Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, Women’s Rights National Historical Park, Shenandoah National Park, Ball on the Mall, Appomattox Court House National Historic Park, Booker T. Washington National Monument, Blue Ridge Parkway, Great Smoky Mountains to highlight our infrastructure needs and the President’s legislative package.
- **April TBD: Department-level Release:** Gateway West Record of Decision signing ceremony – News release and possible signing event with Idaho Governor – BLM has approved routes for segments of the Gateway West electric transmission line on public lands in southwestern Idaho, connecting previously authorized routes in southern Wyoming and eastern Idaho to improve the nation’s energy infrastructure and boost the economy in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **April 23 (TBD): HARASSMENT SURVEY RESPONSE:** In October, DOI announced an immediate action plan to combat the widespread and pervasive culture of harassment and discrimination throughout the National Park Service. Also, in December, we released results from a DOI-wide Work Environment Survey that shows 35 percent of its employees were harassed or discriminated against in the 12 months preceding the anonymous survey. Secretary Zinke issued a call for action plans from all bureau and office heads across the Department. Those were due at the end of January and have been under review. We issued a memo to all employees last week about updated guidance and updated bureau plans will follow. The final plans will go into effect late April. We are drafting comms materials and will share with the WH asap.
- **TBD May: WELL CONTROL FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING RULE:** The proposed rule to revise certain provisions of the 2016 rule entitled “Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control” was submitted to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on December 7. It is anticipated that BSEE will receive the Draft Rule from OMB by March 15. It will then be sent to the Federal Register for publication followed by a public comment period. This rule will be high profile and controversial. Staff has briefed NEC and White House Communications on the rule.
- **TBD May: PRODUCTION SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING RULE:** The Draft Rule on Production Safety System was published in the Federal Register on December 29. The public comment period ended on January 29. A Draft Final Rule is planned to be sent to the Federal Register in coordination with the Well Control Draft Rule. This rule will be high profile and controversial due to its association with the Well Control Rule. Staff has briefed NEC and White House Communications on the rule. *The Director of BSEE will announce both the Well Control Rule and the PSS rule together.*
- **April 11-19 TBD: Department-level Release:** Interior and BLM will issue a Notice of Intent to initiate public scoping on the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS in Alaska. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the EIS, including alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the Tax Act, and to guide the EIS process. The BLM invites the public to provide comments on scoping issues. The Coastal Plain was specifically identified by Congress and the President, pursuant to Section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, for its potential for oil and natural gas resources. Oil and gas from the Coastal Plain is an important resource for meeting our Nation’s energy demands and achieving energy dominance.

#### **Interior Social Media Updates**

- **April 13: Department-level blog post:** Interior will publish a blog post highlighting the best public lands for stargazing as part of International Dark Sky Week, which is April 15-21.
- **April 16: Department-level blog post:** Interior will publish a blog post profiling a volunteer at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. Jim Montgomery has logged 25,000+ hours surveying wildlife and is one of the Service's top record-holders for volunteer hours. April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week.

#### **National Park Service**

- **April 13:** The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve plans to release the Ungulate Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a 45-day public comment period. The plan and DEIS were developed with input from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as formal cooperating agencies. The DEIS addresses two key issues: the need for active elk management; and the future of bison management at the park.
- **By April 13:** The NPS will submit comments to the Regional Environmental Officer/Department on the Railroad Control House Replacement Project, Substation #42 - Hackensack, North Bergen Township in New Jersey. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) submitted a draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for review of this project because the project will need to use Section 4(f) resources, the Pennsylvania Railroad New York to Philadelphia Historic District and specifically Substation Building #3, which is a contributing resource within the district and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Department of Interior is required to respond and concur that there is no prudent or feasible alternative to this 4(f) resource use. The Department of Interior has delegated drafting their response to the National Park Service.
- **April 13 (tent.):** The Japanese American Confinement Sites Program (JACS) will request approval for the partial apportionment of \$1,346,818 in JACS grants to fund nine projects. The grants will be awarded based on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, enacted as Public Law 115-123, and pursuant to the Preservation of Japanese American Confinement Sites Act, P.L. 109-441, 120 Stat.3288, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in preserving historic Japanese American confinement sites and their history.
- **April 15 (tent.):** Moonbeam Leasing & Management, LLC, will commence operations as the new operator of Gateway Marina in the Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area. On March 25, Moonbeam was selected for this 60-year lease based on their ability to reconfigure, upgrade, and make improvements to the Marina facilities. The park plans to inform local elected officials and issue a press release within the week.
- **April 15 (tent.):** Death Valley National Park and Mojave National Preserve will begin efforts to relocate up to 2,500 feral burros from each park. Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (a nonprofit partner) will fund and carry out the roundups, test burros for disease, relocate them to holding facilities, and domesticate the animals for adoption. This is anticipated to generate public interest and has already triggered a FOIA request. (Updated 04/04/18).
- **April 15 (tent.):** Death Valley National Park and the Ridgecrest BLM office anticipate opening a public comment period on the Keystone Mine Plan of Operations Amendment and accompanying Environmental Assessment. The mine is on BLM land near the park's western border, but the mining plan includes the use of water rights within the park.
- **April 16:** Proud Boys New England is considering holding a first amendment demonstration on Patriot Day at Minute Man National Historical Park. They have applied for a Special Use Permit. The proposed demonstration would take place immediately following the Patriots Day parade and program at the Old North Bridge. Terms and conditions of the permit application are currently being reviewed and negotiated. Counter protesters and press coverage anticipated.

- **April 16: Local NPS Release:** Olympic National Park anticipates announcing that a Notice of Availability NOA is to be published in the Federal Register for its Mountain Goat Management Plan/Final EIS (Updated 04/04/18).
- **From April 16-20:** Catoctin Mountain Park is hosting staff from Germany's Black Forest National Park. The visit will mark the beginning of a Sister Park Arrangement between the two parks, with the document signing scheduled for April 19 at Catoctin Mountain Park. Dan Smith, NPS Deputy Director, Stephen Morris, Chief of International Affairs and the US Consul General in Frankfurt, Germany, James Herman, will attend. The State Department and the NPS reviewed and approved the arrangement.
- **April 16 (tent.):** Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Scotty's Castle Flood Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment and FONSI. This document analyzes repair work planned for historic structures, the cultural landscape, utilities, parking, and walkways to recover from damage from a flash flood in October 2015. The historic district is scheduled to reopen to the public in 2020.
- **April 16 (tent.):** Death Valley National Park anticipates publishing a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register for the Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Saline Valley Warm Springs (plan/DEIS). The NOA will initiate a 60-day public comment period on the document during which public meetings will be held in the vicinity of the park. The plan/DEIS is intended to provide a framework for natural and cultural resource management, administration and operations, and managing visitor use.
- **April 16 (tent.):** Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Bonnie Clare Road Reconstruction Environmental Assessment and FONSI. Reconstruction work is scheduled to start in August 2018 and be completed by May 2019. This will allow reopening of the northeast entrance to the park and restore public access to Scotty's Castle after massive damage from flooding in October 2015.
- **April 17: Local NPS Release:** Glacier National Park will release the Sperry Chalet, The Next 100 Years Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 15-day public review and comment period. Two public meetings have already been held. The EA will identify the NPS' preferred alternative, which is to use existing remnant walls to rebuild the structure, replicating and retaining as many historic character features as is practicable, and achieving some modernization in design. The EA will identify two construction seasons. NPS is investigating options for funding, design and construction and assessing the feasibility of construction activity that begins in the summer of 2018 and is completed in 2019.
- **April 17:** At the Smithsonian's Museum Support Center in Suitland, MD, a Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) repatriation ceremony is scheduled. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will use grant funds to transport the Keet Gooshi (Killerwhale Fin) also called the "Bear Song Leader's Staff" back to Alaska. The Keet Gooshi was removed from Alaska sometime before 1948.
- **April 17-18:** Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) will hold a public meeting in Allakaket, Alaska. The purpose of an SRC is to devise and recommend to the Governor of Alaska and the Secretary a program for subsistence hunting within Alaska national parks where subsistence is authorized. The SRCs were established under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.
- **April 19 (tent.): Joint News Release:** Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will issue a joint press release with the park's friends group, the Santa Monica Mountains Fund, announcing an educational campaign about the deadly impacts of anticoagulant rodenticide on park wildlife. The awareness campaign is supported by several cities within and adjacent to the park. Local media coverage is expected.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **April 13 (tent.):** FWS plans to issue a guidance memo related to the DOI Solicitor's M-Opinion 37050 on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The memo will be used by program areas, regional, and field office staff to carry out the Act in light of changes in policy and practice resulting from the M-Opinion, including clarifying what constitutes prohibited take. No outreach is planned.
- **April 13: Local FWS Release:** FWS plans to celebrate the final determination on the proposal to delist the black-capped vireo with an event. Representatives from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Fort Hood (TX), Fort Sill (OK), USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Texas Comptroller's office, congressional offices and other partners are invited. Media will be invited. Stakeholders include the petitioners, Pacific Legal Foundation, New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau, New Mexico Federal Lands Council, Texas Farm Bureau, Department of the Army, The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
- **April 15 (tent.):** FWS plans to send to the Federal Register a final rule removing regulations setting forth the provisions for two depredation orders for double-crested cormorants. FWS had used these standing orders to allow for lethal control of cormorants where they impact aquaculture and public resources; however, on May 25, 2016, the District Court for the District of Columbia ordered that both the Aquaculture Depredation Order and the Public Resources Depredation Order be vacated until FWS performs a new and legally adequate environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement for national cormorant management orders in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This final rule administratively implements the court's decision. While the depredation orders no longer exist, on November 15, 2017, FWS provided some measure of relief to aquaculture facilities. It issued a final EA under NEPA, which allows aquaculture facility managers and property owners across 37 central and eastern states and the District of Columbia to apply for individual permits for lethal take of cormorants where they are impacting resources. This latest action is not controversial. If-asked talking points will be planned.
- **April 16: Local FWS Release:** FWS plans to make 90-day findings on petitions to delist or downlist the Cape mountain zebra, and delist the Preble's meadow jumping mouse. For substantial 90-day findings, this is the first step in a longer process and tends not to get significant media attention; however, this action might be the first time stakeholders become aware that FWS is assessing the status of a species. All stakeholders will have ample opportunity to provide input into the eventual 12-month findings. FWS anticipates local media coverage and interest from livestock and home building industries in Wyoming and Colorado regarding the finding on the petition to delist the Preble's meadow jumping mouse.
- **April TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will award nearly \$19 million in grants to coastal states to conserve and restore coastal wetlands and their fish and wildlife habitat. Each year, the Service supports coastal wetland conservation through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program and the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The grant funds are derived from excise taxes on fishing tackle and motorboat and small engine fuels.
- **April TBD:** FWS plans to send to the Federal Register a notice of issuance for letters of authorizations issued in 2015, 2016 and 2017 under regulations authorizing the non-lethal, unintentional take of marine mammals in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. This is an administrative action and is noncontroversial. No news release will be issued.

#### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **April 9-13: BLM Local Public Scoping Meetings:** The Central Montana District will hold public scoping meetings in Malta, Glasgow, Winifred and Winnett about the bison conservation organization American Prairie Reserve's proposed grazing permit change.

- **April 13: Local BLM Event:** Acting BLM-CO Director Greg Shoop will participate in an annual wildland fire briefing for Governor John Hickenlooper.
- **April 13-16 TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM will announce a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment Environmental Assessment and Notice of Mineral Segregation for the Proposed Dry Lake East Designated Leasing Area in Clark County, Nevada. The area is approximately 10 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada, and east of the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone.
- **April TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM will seek public comments for a Non-Competitive Direct Sale and Conveyance of Mineral Interests of Public Land in Maricopa and Pinal Counties, in Arizona. The sale of 3,380.69 acres was requested by the Community because of significant archaeological resources and cultural sites on the lands. The lands were designated as suitable for disposal in the 2012 BLM Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and approved Resource Management Plan, because it is uneconomical for the BLM to manage them as public lands and they are not needed for any federal purpose.
- **April TBD: National BLM Release:** BLM will announce the Wild Horse and Burro 2018 Adoption Schedule.
- **April TBD: National BLM Release –** BLM will announce a mineral withdrawal renewal proposed for Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Winter Range. The proposed extension withdraws 1,431 acres of Federal land from location or entry under the U.S. mining laws but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws. The public land order that established this withdrawal in 2000 will expire soon unless extended. Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Winter Range supports one of the largest wintering herds of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in North America and draws thousands of people annually.

#### **Office of Wildland Fire**

- **April TBD:** A Joint Direction letter will go to Wildland Fire Leadership to provide guidance on the upcoming fire season. Letter is currently under review and will be coordinated with USDA.

#### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

- **April TBD: BOEM Web Post:** Eni has submitted to the Alaska OCS Region a revised version of its Nikaitchuq North Exploration Plan. This version will provide for Eni to be able to drill during the summer. The revised plan may be posted to the Alaska region's web page after appropriate review.

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- **April 18: National USGS Feature Release:** USGS Will Roll Out Groundbreaking New "HayWired Earthquake Scenario," which outlines a hypothetical M7.0 earthquake event in the San Francisco Bay Area and its associated impacts. The release will coincide with a press event at Memorial Stadium, Berkeley, CA.
- **April 19: National USGS Release:** USGS, the Department of Energy and the American Wind Energy Association will announce an updated map and database of all onshore and offshore wind turbines in the United States. This will serve as a replacement for the current WindFarm Mapping tool maintained by the USGS Energy Resources Program.
- **April 19: National USGS Web Feature:** The USGS will post a web feature online highlighting the differences between East and West Coast earthquakes. While earthquakes east of the Rocky Mountains are far less frequent than in the West, they can cause ground shaking to extend to much farther distances compared to similar or larger earthquakes in the West. In a recently published study USGS scientists also found that shaking is amplified in the Washington DC area due to the thin layer of sediments under parts of the city compared to areas build on more solid, harder bedrock.

- **April TBD: National USGS Release:** USGS scientists are publishing a paper examining the practical limits of an earthquake early warning system, but studying warning arrival times of a hypothetical quake in northern California. Will be published in *Science Advances*.
- **April TBD: New USGS Publication:** North American Net Import Reliance of Mineral Materials for Advanced Technologies: The U.S. Geological Survey and Natural Resources Canada conducted a study on the net import reliance of the United States, Canada, and Mexico as individual countries and as a single trading bloc for twelve nonfuel mineral commodities that are associated with advanced technology products. The minerals are cadmium, cobalt, gallium, germanium, graphite, indium, lithium, nickel, rare earths, selenium, silver, and tellurium.
- **April TBD: National USGS Release:** Scientists at the USGS Non-indigenous Aquatic Species program have developed three “storm trackers” showing where floodwaters of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria probably carried non-native and invasive freshwater plants and animals into new habitat. All three storm trackers have now been published online. The updated Hurricane Maria version was published March 30. <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/viewer/Flooding/>
- **April TBD: Joint USGS, NOAA, Deltares (Holland) and University of Hawaii International News Release:** Many Low-Lying Pacific Atoll Islands Could Be Uninhabitable by Mid-21st Century due to sea-level rise exacerbating wave-driven flooding. Sea levels are rising, with the highest rates in the tropics, where thousands of low-lying coral atoll islands are located. A new study from [U.S. Geological Survey, Deltares, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa](#) scientists projects the impact of sea-level rise and wave-driven flooding on atoll infrastructure and freshwater availability under a variety of climate-change scenarios. USGS published a [similar study](#) and issued a [news release](#) in 2015. Press release will coincide with publication in *Science Advances*.

#### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

- **April 18:** Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Tahsuda speaks at the National Indian Gaming Association's 2018 Annual Meeting and Tradeshow and Convention in Las Vegas, NV.

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **April 12 and 16: Public meetings:** Reclamation will host public meetings in Albuquerque and Las Cruces to release the Middle Rio Grande and Rio Grande Projects Annual Operating Plans. The Rio Grande is experiencing early drying due to drought.
- **April 16:** Reclamation will host a webinar to apprise water officials from the basin states and Mexico on the results of the most probable April 2018 24-month study water use projections for the Colorado River.
- **April 17:** Reclamation will hold the annual agricultural public land lease bid opening in Klamath Falls, Oregon.
- **April TBD: Local Reclamation Release:** Reclamation may provide an update to the initial water allocations for the Central Valley Project in California.
- **April TBD: Local Reclamation Release:** Reclamation will notify the public of the availability of a draft environmental assessment for two funded projects from the 2016 Klamath River Coho Habitat Restoration Grant.

#### **Insular and International Affairs**

- **April 16: OIA Release:** Interior Provides \$10.1 million to American Samoa for Infrastructure at Wharf, Schools, and Hospital; Training and Conservation Awareness Supports Improved Health, Livelihood, Economic Development Opportunities, and Conservation in the Territory
- **April 17: OIA Release:** Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech Visits American Samoa, Keynotes at 118th Flag Day: “We are all Part of the American Family.”

**CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 4/9)**

**2017 COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF OCS OIL & GAS RESOURCES REPORT TO CONGRESS:** This report is required by Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide a report to Congress within 6 months of the date of enactment (i.e., Aug. 8, 2005), with updates at least every 5 years.

**Timing:** April 2018

**Contact:** Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

**UPCOMING FY2019 BUDGET HEARING:** The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will be holding a hearing on the FY19 budget. The Secretary will be the witness.

**Timing:** May 9, 2018

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Susan Combs (A/S PMB) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) were reported out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources by voice vote on January 30. They were both placed on the Senate calendar and were hotlined on February 7. There were objections by Democrats. We are encouraging Senate leadership to file cloture and hold a floor vote on these nominees.

- Steve Gardner (OSM) was renominated in January after being sent back to the WH at the end of December. We are still working with Mr. Gardner on some questions with the Office of Government Ethics.
- Tara Sweeney (A/S Indian Affairs) was recently cleared by the Office of Government Ethics - her ethics paperwork and an amendment to her 278e are cleared to be submitted to the Senate. Her completed questionnaire was delivered to the Committee this week. We are working with the Committee to schedule a hearing in late April. Committee staff will receive a briefing from the FBI after the recess.
- **Dr. James Reilly (Director of USGS) Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was confirmed on April 9 by voice-vote.**

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

**PUBLIC LANDS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND/NATIONAL PARK RESTORATION ACT:** DOI continues the ongoing process of formally rolling out the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, which was included in both the President's FY19 Budget and the Infrastructure proposal. On March 6, 2018, DOI testified at an oversight hearing on the maintenance issue, highlighting the need for maintenance updates on public lands. On March 7, the Secretary joined Senators Alexander, Daines, Capito, Gardner and Tillis to introduce language that was built off of the FY19 Budget proposal, the National Parks Restoration Act. The bill has bipartisan, bicameral support. On March 20, 2018, the NPS Deputy Director, Daniel Smith testified before the House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee on the bill.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**REORGANIZATION AND UNIFIED REGIONAL BOUNDARIES:** Secretary Zinke has informally notified the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding FY18 implementation of new shared regional boundaries across Interior's bureaus. Formal notification is planned for late April or early May following the FY19 appropriations committee hearings, which would trigger a 30 day clock, at the end of which DOI believes it can move ahead, absent express Congressional opposition. Presently, each of the 10

bureaus have different geographic boundaries for regional offices. The new approach has bureaus share unified boundaries based on watersheds, often adjusted to the nearest state line boundaries. Implementing unified regions will improve the timeliness and appropriateness of decision making in the field, by allowing senior managers to focus on the same geography. Interior is implementing a comprehensive Congressional, gubernatorial, employee, and stakeholder communications strategy to demonstrate the advantages of this approach. The FY19 budget also speaks to moving parts of the headquarters of BLM, FWS, and Reclamation westward. Interior successfully worked with the appropriations committee majority staff to avoid an effort by the minority to put unnecessarily restrictive limitations on the reorganization in the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations act.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

#### **Accepted:**

4/16 - Alaska Day Conference (organized by the Alaska Federation of Natives (DC)  
 4/26 - Remarks at BALL for THE MALL (DC)  
 5/3 – RV Industry Power Breakfast (Elkhart, IN)  
 5/23 - Remarks at Williston Basin Petroleum 26th Annual Conference (Bismarck, ND)  
 6/1 - Ducks Unlimited Annual Convention (Indianapolis, IN)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

#### **Outstanding Invitations in Process:**

4/14 National Cowboy Hall of Fame Event (Oklahoma City, OK)  
 4/19-20 5th Annual Arctic Encounter Symposium (Seattle, WA)  
 4/28 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary signing of 1868 Treaty of Ft. Laramie (WY)  
 5/3 – NRA Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)  
 5/10 – SEAL Family Foundation “Families First” Philadelphia Gala (Philadelphia, PA)  
 5/22 Easter Seals Advocacy Awards (DC)  
 5/21-24 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Meeting (Topopenish, WA)  
 5/24 – Surety & Fidelity Association of America’s Annual Meeting (DC)  
 5/30-31 Montana Energy Summit (Billings, MT)  
 5/31-6/2 – Civil War Trust 2018 Annual Conference (Newport News, VA)  
 6/3-5 Annual Coal and Investment Leadership Forum (Bristow, VA)

#### **Declining:**

4/14 SEAL Family Foundation “Families First” San Diego Gala (San Diego, CA)  
 5/9 – Association of California Water Agencies (Sacramento, CA)  
 5/9-11 Colorado Forum (DC)

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**N/A**

### **OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)**

**Ryan Zinke To Raise Park Fees \$5 After Backing Off Huge Hikes.**



The Washington Examiner (4/12, Justice) reports that the Interior Department announced Thursday that fees in more than 100 national parks will be increased by \$5, “backing away from its original plan to more than double entrance costs at some of the nation’s most popular sites.” In a tweet Thursday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke wrote, “An investment in our parks is an investment in America. ... We listened to the American people and we came up with a plan that puts badly needed revenue into our parks to rebuild visitors centers, roads, restrooms and other and other infrastructure.”

The AP (4/12, Daly) reports that “the plan by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke drew widespread opposition from lawmakers and governors of both parties, who said the higher fees could exclude many Americans from enjoying national parks.” Additionally, “the agency received more than 109,000 comments on the plan, most of them opposed.” Zinke “thanked those who made their voices heard through the public comment process: ‘Your input has helped us develop a balanced plan that focuses on modest increases,’ he said.”

The Hill (4/12, Cama) reports that “the groups that opposed Zinke’s previous plan applauded Thursday’s announcement.” Theresa Pierno, president of the National Parks Conservation Association, said, “From the moment the administration made its proposal to triple fees at some of America’s most popular national parks, many businesses, gateway communities, governors, tourism groups, conservation organizations and the public have said this was the wrong solution for parks’ repair needs. The public spoke, and the administration listened.” Rep. Raúl Grijalva said, “This is a prime example that activism works. The American people raised their concerns, participated in the public comment period and made sure that the Trump White House knew that the proposal was unpopular. This is a big win for park lovers everywhere.”

#### **Task Force Makes 11 Drug-Related Arrests On Tribal Lands.**

Law360 (4/12, Lidgett) reports that the Interior Department on Wednesday “announced 11 drug-possession arrests after a raid in New Mexico by a new joint task force that was launched as part of the federal government’s steps to tackle the opioid crisis in Native American communities.” The task force between April 3 and 7 “conducted its first raid in cooperation with Pueblo tribes and law enforcement officials in New Mexico.” According to the article, “the raid involved the confiscation of \$2.5 million in methamphetamine and thousands of dollars’ worth of marijuana.”

#### **Advocates Urge Congress To Keep Large Western Coal Plant Open.**

UPI (4/12, McFarland) reports that “an advocacy group for the largest coal-fired power plant in the West – which may be shuttered next year – joined labor and industry leaders Thursday in asking Congress to keep the facility open.” At an oversight hearing Thursday in the House Committee on Natural Resources, the article says, “the Yes to NGS coalition pled with Congress and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to keep the Navajo Generating Station near Page, Ariz., running.” Navajo Nation Speaker LoRenzo Bates said, “The Navajo Nation is blessed with a wealth of natural fossil fuels and renewable energy resources – resources we have the right develop and which we have the capability to manage. NGS is an essential component of the Navajo Nation’s economy and our energy portfolio and must remain viable for the sake of the Nation and our People.”

***Firm Narrows Potential Buyers For Arizona Coal-fired Plant.*** The AP (4/12, Fonseca) reports that “an investment firm tasked with finding a new owner for an Arizona coal plant is focused mostly on an unnamed potential investor, but critics of the plant say talks to keep it open are a ‘wasteful distraction’ that hinders future economic prospects for the Navajo Nation.” A sale of the Navajo Generating Station is “considered a longshot as utilities increasingly move away from coal-fired power in favor of renewable energy sources and cheaper natural gas.” George Bilicic, a vice chairman at Lazard, “did not identify the potential investor during a congressional hearing Thursday on the Navajo Generating Station but said it’s a reputable company that operates power plants and has met with key players.”

### **Federal Charges May Be In Store For Corona Arch Vandal Idaho Falls Man ID D After Posting Family Photo Online.**

The Moab (UT) Times-Independent (4/12, Knight) reports that “an Idaho man has issued an apology after he was revealed online inscribing graffiti into Corona Arch and posting a photo of it online.” The man, “identified as towing company executive Ryan Andersen of Idaho Falls, Idaho, inscribed the marks ‘18’ and ‘R’ and ‘J’ as well as a heart in the arch and then posed for the photo with his family.” Bureau of Land Management Public Affairs Specialist Lisa Bryant on April 6 said “the case has been turned over to the U.S. Department of Justice for further investigation.” U.S. Attorney’s Office spokesperson Melody Rydalch said, “The U.S. Attorney’s office will likely be filing charges in the case.”

### **Crews Fight Wildfire On Eastern Arizona Reservation, Forest.**

The AP (4/12) reports that “over 100 firefighters and other personnel are battling a wildfire burning in a remote area of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in eastern Arizona.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs “says cause of the fire that started Wednesday that has burned approximately 400 acres (162 hectares) of pine and grass by Thursday isn’t known.” BIA spokeswoman Candy Lupe “says no structures are threatened and that no injuries have been reported.”

### **Fresh From Bankruptcy, Driller Fieldwood Hungry For U.S. Offshore Output.**

Reuters (4/12, Resnick-Ault) reports that Fieldwood Energy announced Thursday that it will acquire \$480 million in Gulf of Mexico assets from Noble Energy, and “nearly all deepwater blocks.” The deal is set to close when Fieldwood emerges from bankruptcy protection. Fieldwood CEO Matt McCarroll said, “Where others may see it as maturing or dead, we think (the U.S. Gulf of Mexico) still holds vast opportunities for those of us with the unique experience to manage the challenges.” According to the article, McCarroll “said Fieldwood will start a drilling program on the newly-acquired assets that are not currently producing within six to twelve months, and will evaluate its existing acreage before making another acquisition.”

### **New Jersey Revives Plan For Wind Farm Off Atlantic City Coast.**

Bloomberg News (4/12, Young) reports lawmakers in New Jersey “have revived a long-stalled plan to build a wind farm off the coast of Atlantic City.” The legislature yesterday approved a bill “allowing the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to reconsider a 24-megawatt project by Fishermen’s Energy LLC that was rejected under Republican Governor Chris Christie.” The bill “gives regulators 90 days to act on Fishermen’s application, which will be filed in May, the company’s secretary Paul Gallagher said.”

### **FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

REG0008016 BIA HEARTH Act Approval of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin's Regulation -- The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has approved the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin (previously listed as Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin) leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). This approval authorizes the Nation to enter into business, agricultural and residential leases without further BIA approval. Notice 04/12/2018

REG0008035 FWS Migratory Bird Permits; Regulations for Managing Resident Canada Goose Populations -- The FWS proposes to amend the depredation and control orders to allow destruction of resident Canada goose nests and eggs at any time of the year. Proposed Rule 04/12/2018

REG0008045 FWS Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities; Proposed Incidental Harassment Authorization for Southern Sea Otters in Monterey, California -- In response to a request from the United States Coast Guard (USCG), FWS proposes to authorize the incidental taking by harassment of small numbers of southern sea otters for one year, beginning on or before June 15, 2018  
Notice 04/12/2018

REG0008067 FWS Marine Mammals; Letters of Authorization to Take Pacific Walrus and Polar Bears, Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, Alaska -- The FWS is required to publish Federal Register notice of letters issued authorizing the incidental taking of polar bears and Pacific walrus. Notice 04/12/2018

REG0008093 FWS U.S. Endangered Species; Recovery Permit Applications (Miami U, Oxford, OH, re. Tex. hornshell, first app) -- This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA) permits. Notice 04/12/2018

REG0008094 FWS U.S. Endangered Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Applications (Idaho Power Company, first) -- This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA) permits. Notice 04/12/2018

REG0008105 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Lesser Long-nosed Bat From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife -- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is removing the lesser long-nosed bat from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to recovery. Final Rule 04/12/2018

REG0008122 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new information collection pertaining to the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework in States bordering the Great Lakes. The USGS is requesting public comments on the proposed information collection for 30 days. Notice 04/12/2018



## THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

### Sen. Toomey (R-PA) Congressional Call

4/16/18

2:00 pm

Office

Action Officer: Micah Chambers – micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov – 202.208.5348

- I. **PURPOSE:** Sec. Zinke will be doing a call with Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) to discuss the NPS contract for 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/United States Semiquincentennial Commission.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** Sen. Toomey does want to be more proactive in his outreach to the administration and wants to “meet” you. He will also want to discuss USA 250. Under the previous administration, a bill was passed to establish to coordinate and facilitate activities in 2026 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The NPS must contract with a nonprofit to coordinate the commission meetings and plan the event. DOI sent the [RFP](#) in November. Since then, submissions have been sent soon and the Department is nearing a decision.

One of the most contested issue within the commission is that there seemed to be a concerted effort to funnel the nonprofit contract to USA250, which is based in Philadelphia, PA. Sen. Toomey has been tracking this issue. He has worked with USA 250 to diversify its leadership, which is heavily Democrat politically. According to the Senator, the group has implemented many of those leadership changes; therefore, he will likely be more proactive in advocating for them. There are other members of the commission who are advocating for other non-profits to get the award and have spoken with the Secretary about that as well.

**Overall Message:** We put an RFP out. The proposals are making their way through the process and I’m looking forward to analyzing them shortly. Will take your input for consideration as well and appreciate your comments and work on this.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

#### *Internal*

- Secretary Zinke
- John Tanner

#### *External*

- Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA)

### IV. ATTACHMENTS



THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

**Alaska Federation of Natives Symposium: Challenges at America's Northern-most Border  
Policy Maker Round Table Discussion**

16 April 2018

1100

Capitol Room @ Hyatt on Capitol Hill, 200 New Jersey Ave, NW

Action Officer: Joe Balash (b)(6) and Steve Wackowski (b)(6)

**I. PURPOSE**

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is hosting a forum to discuss the risks and threats to national interests in Alaska. Topics will include national security, investments in critical infrastructure, energy development, hardening communications systems and securing the lives and well-being of American citizens living in the north.

**II. BACKGROUND**

This event is a reschedule of the AFN's "Alaska Day", which was originally slated to take place at MIB but had to be cancelled last minute due to the 22 January government shutdown. This is a one day event which should have a participation mix of AK Native tribes/corporations and DC-based Alaska/Arctic policymakers, lobbyists, and government employees.

**III. PARTICIPANTS**

OMB Director Mulvany (confirmed), NORTHCOM, AK TAG, the Lt. Gov, all of the AK Congressional delegation and various senior members of Alaska Native corps/tribes have speaking rolls at the event.

**IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

**9:30-11:00 AM**

Roundtable discussion: Perspective on Current Risks, Threats and Opportunities in Alaska and the Far North

Moderator: Julie Kitka, President, AFN

ADM (ret) Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., Acting NOAA Administrator

LtGen Kenneth Wilsbach, Alaskan Command

MGEN Laurie Hummel, Alaska TAG

RADM Michael McAllister, Commander, 17th Coast Guard District

Greg Razo, Vice-President, Cook Inlet Region Inc.

Richard Glenn, Executive Vice President, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

**11:00AM – Noon**

**Roundtable Discussion: Policy Makers**

Moderator: Ana Hoffman, AFN Co-Chair

**Secretary Zinke**, Sens Sullivan and Murkowski and Dean of the House Young

**12:15-12:30 PM**

Special Guest Speaker: OMB Director Nick Mulvaney

**V. PRESS PLAN**

The event is open to press, however little attention from the DC press corps is expected. Alaska Public Radio and the Anchorage Daily News have DC-based reporters that should be covering the event.

**VI. REMARKS**

Remarks on your panel are requested to be less than five minutes to allow time for Q&A. This crowd is very pro-King Cove Road. We strongly recommend mentioning it in your opening remarks. The delegation should bring up their stalled ANCSA Improvement Act in their remarks. NOTE: The bill also contains Sen Sullivan's Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act.

Talking point recommendations:

-Alaska Natives have no greater friend in the Federal Government than your delegation and the Trump Administration. We aren't shying away from the decisions that have great impacts on your lives.

-As you all know, King Cove was one of those decisions. Since there is ongoing litigation from environmental organizations on the King Cove Road I can't talk about it much except to say that it was the right thing to do for the people of Alaska. I'm not afraid of getting sued when it comes to saving people's lives.

-When I became Secretary, your delegation made sure to remind me that Alaska is different. But we Montanans have more in common with Alaskans than you think, especially when it comes to dealing with the Federal government. One thing DC doesn't understand is that a one-size-fits-all approach just doesn't make sense for Americans especially those out west and in the Arctic.

-This why I strongly support getting our park rangers, refuge managers, biologists, and their supervisors out into the field.

-Department wide this last year—From Wrangell to Wainwright-- we conducted over 3000 Alaska Native Consultations, village visits, and government-to-government meetings. It is important to get our people to the front lines so they can breathe the same air you do and experience first hand some of the challenges you face when it comes to transportation, communications, and food security.

-My staff and I will take a hard look at the ANCSA (Ain-G-Saa) Improvement Act. We will take a look at what we could possibly do administratively in this bill.

-One important part of that bill is the Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act. As a SEAL and a combat veteran, I view this as a matter of honor. Alaska Native Veterans who were serving their country during the native allotment application period deserve a chance to claim their birthright.

-In closing, as many of you may know, during my service as a SEAL, I trained in Kodiak and jumped into the Aleutians. We learned first-hand the some of the challenges faced operating in Alaska. I think the words of General Billy Mitchel, the father of the Air Force, still ring true today, Alaska is still the most important strategic place in the world.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018**

**Daily Schedule**

**8:30am**            **Depart Residence en route H-1 Stables**

**9:00am**            **Arrive H-1 Stables; Proceed to Constitution Ave**

**10:00am**          **Cherry Blossom Parade**  
Location: Constitution Ave from 7<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> St NW

**RON**                **Washington, DC**

## **Draft: Alaska Day**

- Since my first day in office, I have made sovereignty a top priority.
- For Alaska Natives, we have taken a government-to-government approach, so we can restore trust.
- Alaska is different – a one-size-fits-all approach just doesn't work in The Last Frontier. Traditionally, Washington, DC has not understood this, but we have a new focus.
- **We are putting people first. As you all know, our action in King Cove was one of those decisions.**
  - Since there is **ongoing litigation** from environmental groups on the road, **I cannot talk about it much**, except to say that it was the right thing to do for the people of Alaska.
  - I am not afraid to get sued when it comes to saving people's lives.
- I have a special appreciation for decision making at the front lines. I strongly support getting our park rangers, refuge managers, biologists, and their supervisors out into the field.
  - Department wide this last year—from Wrangell to Wainwright—we conducted over 3000 Alaska Native Consultations, village visits, and government-to-government meetings.



- Going forward, my team is taking a close look at the ANCSA Improvement Act.
  - One important part of that bill is the Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act. As a SEAL and a combat veteran, I view this as a matter of honor.
  - Alaska Native Veterans who were serving their country during the native allotment application period deserve a chance to claim their birthright.
- In closing, as many of you may know, during my service as a SEAL, I trained in Kodiak and jumped into the Aleutians. We learned first-hand the some of the challenges faced operating in Alaska.
  - With that awareness, we will continue to prioritize the Alaska Native people and uphold our responsibilities.

**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-04-19T12:23:31-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Assistance  
**Received:** 2018-04-19T12:24:12-04:00

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Usher, Barry" <Rep.Barry.Usher@mt.gov>  
**Date:** 04/18/2018 13:01 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** "Ryan Zinke" (b)(6) (b)(6) >  
**Cc:** "Usher, Barry" <Rep.Barry.Usher@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** Assistance

Mr Secretary,

I am not sure if you remember Karen Yost, Montana Agri-Women. She was on your AG Advisory Committee when you were our Congressman.

She has been trying to get a meeting with you and someone in authority at BLM for their American Agri-Women & Montana Agri-Women Washington Fly In early June.

They seem to keep hitting a wall.

Can you assist?

Thank you

Barry

Barry M. Usher

Representative

Montana House District 40

(406) 252-2888 x1116

[Rep.Barry.Usher@MT.Gov](mailto:Rep.Barry.Usher@MT.Gov)





**To:** Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-04-25T09:58:10-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Coronado Eagle Scout Letter of Commendation  
**Received:** 2018-04-25T09:58:55-04:00

Pls prepare a letter of congratulations to the bs listed below. I can also sign a personal card to each. Z

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Eugene Kocherga <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** 04/24/2018 09:36 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** (b)(6), Marti Bastuba <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Coronado Eagle Scout Letter of Commendation

Ryan,  
As a follow up, here is the email & list of Scouts:

Begin forwarded message:

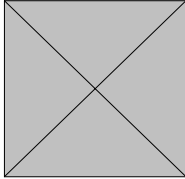
**From:** Martin Bastuba <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Eagle Scout Letters of Commendation  
**Date:** April 4, 2018 at 6:37:46 PM PDT  
**To:** Jenka Eugene Kocherga <(b)(6)>

Eugene,

Below are Names and DOB of Eagle Scouts at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Court of Honor on the USS Midway:

- Alex Bastuba – DOB (b)(6)
- Tyler Buckley – DOB (b)(6)
- Pete Glorieux – DOB (b)(6)
- Pdraig MacGabann – DOB (b)(6)
- Cole Mullins – DOB (b)(6)
- Mickey Rahm – DOB (b)(6)
- Luke Redford – DOB (b)(6)
- Jack Schiaffino – DOB (b)(6)

Thank You so much for helping us  
connect with Ryan Zinke!!



**Eugene Kocherga,**  
Cell: (b)(6)  
**Big Block Realty,** (b)(6)  
**Your Key to Real Estate. Unlocking Opportunities**  
BRE #01379487

**To:** Ted Bell [REDACTED] (b)(6) Caroline Personal[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ryan Zinke  
**Sent:** 2018-04-26T19:29:01-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: visit  
**Received:** 2018-04-26T19:30:10-04:00

We can do both with you and FT peck if u think it to be appropriate. Allow me the honor to supply all the feast provisions. It is the least I can do. Mike argo, a former navy seal captain, will work with you or your designate on the specifics. I have included caroline on the email for coordination. I look forward to see you and the family and sharing time together. All the best. Wowanga intacha.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Ted Bell [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Date:** 04/26/2018 16:11 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** Ryan Zinke <[REDACTED] (b)(6)>  
**Subject:** visit

Wowanga-intacha, since you plan to be here on the 19th, a couple plans need to be adjusted for the sweat. I originally arranged plans for this to happen on ft. peck with our red bottom relatives there. Now, we are pleased to have you come here. I live in the mountains 3 miles south of lodge pole, my house and sweatlodge is visible by google. Mikes mother and I are divorced yet get along real well, and will be here to welcome you with mikes 2 other brothers. A couple of those men who attended your naming ceremony will be here also, I haven't told anyone you are coming because I don't think it's anyone's business. Question, what time are you planning to arrive? I need about 3 hours to heat rocks get water and drink coffee. This can be done at night if need be. There are old spirits around here at night who like to sing. I will be in no hurry to get done. If possible, I would like to have all seals who accompany you to sweat with you. Mike name is tatanka eyo dong, meaning sitting buffalo bull. All my children and grandchildren have names and songs including you. (explanation) if I pray for you and say Ryan, god knows there are many Ryan's out there and may get confused as to whom I mean, but if I say wo-wanga intacha, he will know for sure who I mean. Gifts. in order for me or you to do this correctly, you must bring 2 yards yellow cloth(representing springtime) for each son you want named, and another 2 yards for prayers for your wife. also 1 pouch tobacco for each, 3- 2 yards of yellow and 3 pouches of tobacco for the spirits. Gifts for me would be a blanket, tobacco, money if you choose, however money is not required but I always give others money when I ask them something. In other words, this is not about money. My sons are talking about presenting you with gifts for what you done helping their brother mike. We want to gift all the people who travel with you but at this time we don't know who is coming, however being in the company of seals is an honor, and I am sure our cooks would love to feed you. The snow is going away fast and probably be gone before you get here. Some of the language is assinaboine, will translate if need be, most of all the spirits will come, so tell all not to fear anything, they will come to look at everyone and carry all prayers to the heavens. Tell all, no sex 4 days prior to sweat, and everyone welcome, people do not HAVE to come into sweat, there are some chairs and benches outside to listen.

Are you planning to meet with tribal councils? am wondering because the 19th is on a Saturday. When you go to ft. peck, them fells's will want to sweat with you too. You are family

**To:** Aaron Thiele[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[REDACTED (b)(6)]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Elinor Werner[elinor\_werner@ios.doi.gov]; Holly Lane[holly\_lane@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[Laura\_Rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Leila Getto[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; Luke Bullock[wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov]; Matthew Dermody[matthew\_dermody@ios.doi.gov]; Mike Argo[michael\_argo@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Zinke[cdr06@ios.doi.gov]; Samantha Hebert[samantha\_hebert@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]

**From:** Caroline Boulton

**Sent:** 2018-05-01T20:57:49-04:00

**Importance:** Normal

**Subject:** Re: Electronic Briefing Book: 5.2.18

**Received:** 2018-05-01T20:57:58-04:00

[ATT00001.htm](#)

[Assistant Secretary Monthly Meeting May 1 2018.docx](#)

All,

Final update for the evening is Doug's monthly meeting memo.

Best,  
Caroline



Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2018, at 7:12 PM, Boulton, Caroline <[caroline\\_boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

All,

Thanks to Leila for catching that I didn't edit out the location/staffing details for the Swearing In Ceremony from today's ASLM meeting. The correct location is at the State Department in the Benjamin Franklin Room with no accompanying staff.

Best,  
Caroline

On Tue, May 1, 2018 at 7:06 PM, Boulton, Caroline <[caroline\\_boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

All,

Below is the schedule and briefing book for tomorrow. Doug's memo will be sent out when completed.

Best,  
Caroline

#### **Daily Schedule**

- 9:00am**            **Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Hommel, Magallanes, Argo, Rigas, Tanner, Wynn*
- 9:30am**            **Monthly Meeting with Insular & International Affairs**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Deputy Secretary, Magallanes, Domenech, Pula*
- 10:15am**          **Depart DOI en route State Department**
- 11:00am**          **Swearing-In Ceremony of Michael Pompeo**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Magallanes, Balash, MacGregor, Orr*
- 12:00pm**          **Depart State Department en route DOI**
- 12:15pm**          **OPEN/Lunch**
- 1:00pm**            **Weekly Meeting with the Solicitor's Office**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Jorjani, Magallanes*
- 1:30pm**            **Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Hommel*
- 2:00pm**            **OPEN**
- 2:30pm**            **Call with Senator Toomey**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Tanner*
- 3:00pm**            **Briefing on What's Inside Show**  
Location: Secretary's Office  
*Staff: Newell, Bockmier*
- RON**                **Washington, DC**

--

Caroline Boulton

FOIA001:00083608

Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403

--

Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403



**United States Department of the Interior**  
 Washington, D.C. 20240  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY MONTHLY MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY**

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 4, 2018 **TIME:** 9:30 am to 10:00 am  
**FROM:** Doug Domenech, ASIIA  
**SUBJECT:** May Monthly Meeting on Insular and International Affairs  
**DOI Staff Participating:** Doug Domenech, ASIIA  
 Nik Pula, Director Office of Insular Affairs

*Insular Areas*

**U.S. Territories**

Guam  
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
 American Samoa  
 U.S. Virgin Islands

**Freely Associated States**

Republic of the Marshall Islands  
 Federated States of Micronesia  
 Palau

Following are the topics for discussion for your meeting concerning issues in the Office of Insular Affairs, the Office of International Affairs, and the Oceans Program. There are NO decision items included.

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

- Political Special Assistant – still vetted by the White House. Sarah Jorgenson, House Homeland Security Committee. TS/SCI clearance.
- Legislative Affairs staff – vetting via Departmental process. Casey Brinck, formerly of Delegate Amata Radawagon’s office.

**II. TRAVEL UPDATES**

PACIFIC ISLANDS TOUR:

- Nik Pula and Doug Domenech returned from their trip to American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI. Doug gave the keynote address at the **Annual US Flag Day** celebration in American Samoa on April 17. Governor Lolo Moliga and the leaders of American Samoa send their regards. More details below.
- Doug also gave remarks on April 25 at the **Micronesian Islands Forum** held in Saipan where Presidents Hilda Heine of the Marshall Islands, Peter Christian of the Federated States of Micronesia, Tommy Remengesau of Palau and Governors Eddie Calvo of Guam and Ralph Torres of the CNMI were all present, including the governors of the four states of the FSM. The Micronesian leaders passed a few Resolutions at their meeting with a few requests to the United States Government (information forthcoming). “This is the first time that Micronesian leaders signed letters to the U.S. government outlining the islands’ unified positions on issues regarding air transportation, taxation, workforce, healthcare, shipping, fishing and invasive species.” More details below.

- During the trip we met with Pacific Command, Coast Guard Command, Joint Base Marianas, and the Marines. More details below.

#### SECRETARIAL PACIFIC TRAVEL

- PACOM and the State Department are working on a proposal to attend the Pacific Islands Forum in September in Nauru. They would hope you would join as leader of the delegation. PACOM General Fenton is working on this issue.
- VA: (No Update) The Veterans Administration has informed us that they are trying to pull together a trip for the new VA Secretary to travel out to the island areas. This planning was already underway. We have floated the idea of a trip with Interior, Veterans Affairs, and Defense on national security issues.

### III. UPDATES ON THE TERRITORIES

#### US VIRGIN ISLANDS

- Hurricane: FEMA personnel in the US Virgin Islands will be presenting the Federal Disaster Recovery Support Strategy Matrix for review and approval by the Virgin Islands Government Leadership this week.
- Meeting with the Governor: As a follow up to your April 10 meeting with Governor Mapp and FEMA Administrator Long, the Office of Insular Affairs has had meetings with Treasury staff regarding the continuing vulnerability of the Virgin Islands fiscal health.
- Recovery Funding: The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) has received a proposal from the Virgin Islands Department of Finance to help improve their Single Audit process and Capital Asset management. OIA anticipates receiving an additional proposal which will assist the USVI government in managing all disaster relief funds.
- FEMA Community Disaster Loan for the USVI: This Friday, May 4, we are meeting with Treasury officials to discuss financial issues related to the USVI government. VI continues to have liquidity issues. FEMA is closing the second round of Community Disaster Loans for the USVI. The Government will receive \$30 million and the two hospitals on St. Thomas and St. Croix will each receive \$3 million. During the first round of the Community Disaster Loan from FEMA, the government received \$65 million the two hospitals each received \$10 million.
- Caneel Bay Resort: To our knowledge, there has been no new movement on resolving the lease/recovery for Caneel Bay. The Solicitors Office and the NPS are working on an options paper for you on this matter.

## **GUAM**

- Doug Domenech meeting with Governor Eddie Calvo: On April 24 met with Governor Calvo and discussed Guam's efforts in dealing with impacts of the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act of 2017. Guam Office of Finance and Budget estimated that tax collections would be \$67 million short between now and the end of the fiscal year.
- Guam War Claims Funding Issue: Public Law 114-328 established the Guam World War II Claims Fund to be funded by the difference between monies returned to Guam (known as Section 30 funds) collected in 2014, and future funds. Treasury has finally established this 2014 "floor" at \$68 million. This means all funds that we would normally forward to Guam above that number will now be held by Treasury for the Claims fund. Guam disputes this amount. OIA, Treasury and DOJ will meet on May 7 to discuss the process
- Joint Region Marianas. Met with Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, Commander of Joint Region Marianas, to discuss the Guam Military Buildup and the Chinese influence in the Pacific.
- War in the Pacific National Historic Park: Met with Superintendent Barbara Alberti and toured the Park.
- Marine Corps Activity Guam. Met with US Marine Corps leadership and discussed currently funded projects in Guam, including training expectations for the islands of Tinian and Pagan in the CNMI.
- Doug Domenech provided the following grants to Governor Calvo:
  - \$5.6 million in Capital Improvement Project funding for the Department of Parks and Recreation for repairs, renovations, and/or upgrades of public gymnasiums, sports facilities, and restroom facilities.
  - \$1 million in Capital Improvement Project funding for the fourth year of the Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms (ABCs) health and safety initiative to address critical deferred maintenance issues throughout Guam's public schools.
  - \$248,000 in Technical Assistance Funding for the Fixed Assets Software & Hardware Upgrade project to resolve Fixed Assets Single Audit Findings.

## **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)**

- Doug Domenech meeting with Governor Ralph Torres. On April 24 met with Governor Torres and discussed the issue of \$5.7 million in disallowed costs related to the Puerto Rico Dump closure project. Labor and immigration issues pertaining to the CW worker population were also discussed.

- American War Memorial National Park. Toured the Park and met with National Park Service staff. The Government is in conflict with the Park over its management. Recently the House of Representatives passed a resolution allowing CNMI to request the Park be returned to the local government.
- Tour of Garapan Public Market. Toured the Garapan Public Market, whose energy upgrade projects were funded by OIA's Energizing Insular Communities program.
- Ribbon Cutting for Water Tank Project. Attended ribbon cutting for 0.5 million gallon water tank that was funded through OIA's Capital Improvement Project program.
- Doug Domenech provided grants to Governor Torres, including the following:
  - \$2.3 million in Compact Impact funds to defray costs borne by the CNMI Government for social and public services used by migrants from the freely associated states of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.
  - \$1.6 million in Capital Improvement Project funding for the construction of environmentally compliant landfill on the islands of Tinian and Rota.
  - \$215,680 in Technical Assistance Funding for the acquisition of additional automated passport control units for the Saipan International Airport.
- Chinese Impact: Media reports persist on alleged corruption of the government.

## **AMERICAN SAMOA**

- Meeting with Governor Lolo Moliga. Met with Governor Lolo to discuss issues including political status and the reprogramming of Capital Improvement Project funding.
- Grants: Doug Domenech signed over \$10.6 million in infrastructure funds to support projects at the wharf, hospital, and schools in the territory. The funding also included technical and maintenance assistance for training and youth conservation awareness programs.
- Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center. Met with LBJ CEO and staff regarding the need for US certified medical doctors and nurses, the inability to charge veterans for medications and services, and the need for updated equipment and a new hospital. Also discussed two significant issues: the law that provides for free medical care for the residents of American Samoa and the non-payment of individuals who have insurance.
- Meeting with Port and Seaport Director. Visited the new service wharf and fuel dock funded by OIA, and discussed the request for funding to remove a sunken vessel near the wharf.

- Meeting with the Ronald Reagan Shipyard Authority. Met with the CEO to discuss a new office and training facility under construction, as well as the repairs being made to the 3,000 ton slipway, funded by OIA's Capital Improvement Project funding.
- Meeting with Congresswoman Amata Radewagen. Met with the Congresswoman to discuss the US citizenship lawsuit and minimum wage in the territory. The Congresswoman requested DOI's support for the retention of the Section 30A tax credit.
- Star Kist Tuna Cannery: Met with Star Kist of American Samoa leadership and toured the Cannery at Satala. American Samoa continues to be impacted by reduced fishing and catch deliveries to their cannery.
- High Court of American Samoa. Met with Chief Justice Michael Kruse. The Chief Justice is a paid DOI employee.
- Department of Homeland Security: Received a briefing at the Emergency Operations Center regarding Cyclone Gita. FEMA Region IX Director Fenton was present. American Samoa continues to recover from Gita. Damage was significant but not as bad as the hurricanes in PR and USVI.
- American Samoa Community College. Met with the President and Staff to discuss the trouble retaining educators due to local salary levels and the various projects that could benefit from CIP funding.
- Funding: The American Samoa government has continued to be impacted by 2 decades of flat funding from Interior for their operations account.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**

- State Visit: Your request of an official State Visit for the three Freely Associated States is moving forward. They are still looking at a possible June date for this event.
- Micronesian Island Forum: Doug Domenech provided greetings on your behalf to the gathered leaders and other attends. Approximately 200+ attended.

#### **PALAU**

- Met President Tommy Remengesau in Saipan at the Micronesian Island Leaders Forum.

- The Omnibus included the long awaited funding for the Palau Compact, \$123.9 million. We are working with the State Department on the necessary documents to implement the payment schedule and requirements.
- OIA senior staff joined State Department officials in Palau this week to discuss the new funding schedule.

#### **REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

- Doug Domenech had the opportunity to meet with President Hilda Heine at the Micronesian Island Leaders Forum in Saipan.
- As an outgrowth of our trip to the country last month, we have been working to solve the issues of providing Veterans health benefits to qualified vets in the country. We held a very productive meeting with VA leadership on this issue which specifically impacts all of the Freely Associated States.

#### **FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**

- Doug Domenech had the opportunity to meet with President Peter Christian at the Micronesian Island Leaders Forum in Saipan. President Christian requested US Government assistance on transportation issue (cabotage).

#### **V. OCEANS GREAT LAKES COASTLINES**

- Ocean Deliverables: AS Domenech is co-leading an effort with NOAA and DOD to identify interagency ocean resource management deliverables across the US government in support of the Administration's focus on national security, economy, streamlining permitting, and energy dominance. OSTP and CEQ have asked for these deliverables by June, to coincide with the potential release of an EO on Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes. The DOI Senior Ocean Policy Team has proposed 4 deliverables for which DOI is the lead agency. DOI is listed as a partner in several other deliverables proposed by other agencies.
- Coral Reef Task Force: The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force is planning their next meeting for August 2018 in American Samoa. AS Domenech is co-chair of the Task Force along with NOAA Acting Administrator, Tim Gallaudet. At this point, the Task Force is planning on one major decision item for the Task Force members at the meeting: development of a working group and on-the-ground teams to implement initiatives related to restoration of coral reefs. The meeting will also highlight interagency work in one of three Task Force priority watershed sites in the village of Faga'alu, American Samoa. The Governor of American Samoa and DOI are co-hosts of this Task Force meeting.



- Our Oceans: The 2018 Our Ocean Conference will be held October 29-30 in Bali, Indonesia. DOI's Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Coordinator and Office of International Affairs are working with an interagency group led by Department of State to prepare for USG participation in the conference, which will focus on major international commitments to protect, conserve, and understand the ocean. The theme this year is "Our Ocean, Our Legacy."
- Oceans Month: World Oceans Day is June 8 and Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) will be held June 5-7. The Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Coordinator, along with the DOI Senior Ocean Policy Team, are coordinating the Department's participation in CHOW, which is hosted annually by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. June has also historically been proclaimed as National Oceans Month, including by President Trump in 2017. Two new issues of the DOI NEWSWAVE newsletter are expected to be released in June for these events.

## VI. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

- **International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP)**: ITAP continues to work on 22 projects in 37 countries at the request of (and with funding from) the State Department and USAID. These activities rely upon the technical expertise of DOI personnel, and support U.S. foreign policy priorities. This month, ITAP has a number of activities related to counter-wildlife trafficking and conservation, in support of the Feb 2017 Executive Order on Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking, for example:

- **Central America** activities that are supported by the State Department.  
ITAP is participating in a regional meeting regarding counter-wildlife trafficking and conservation to exchange lessons learned and best practices.

An ITAP project manager will meet with the Prosecutor General of Panama and Panama's Chief of Environmental Police to plan and coordinate upcoming DOI-ITAP organized workshops, meetings, and activities.

- **East Africa** activities that are supported by USAID:
  - FWS and ITAP are supporting a law enforcement training course in Uganda focused on information sharing and developing professional networks, and will include sessions on evidence collection and forensic imaging of telephones and computers.
  - FWS and ITAP are supporting a technical exchange between the Kenya Wildlife Service and the FWS Forensic Lab in Ashland
  - ITAP is coordinating a technical exchange between two law enforcement officers from the Northern Rangelands Trust and Yellowstone National Park on interoperability and law enforcement coordination.
  - ITAP is leading a USGS employee and FWS to help develop a mission strategy to combat wildlife trafficking in Kenya as specified in the END Act.

- **Potential trips:**

LONDON: We continue to work with FWS to prepare a proposal for you to participate in a Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Conference in England in the Fall.

USAID: We continue to work with USAID to prepare a specific proposal for you to travel with Administrator Green to review conservation related project in South America or Africa.

- **Meetings and MOU signings**

**Vietnamese Minister of Public Security on wildlife trafficking.** The Minister will plan his trip around the Secretary's availability, and is seeking to come to DC in June/July.

**Israeli Ambassador on conservation and protected area management.** Israel has asked to meet and sign May 30-31. We can arrange for an event at the Israeli Embassy or here at DOI—which does the Secretary prefer? Alternatively, we can have the Deputy Secretary sign.

**Australia.** As follow up to the Secretary's meeting with the Australian Minister for Resources and Northern Australia in Houston last month, we are working with ASWS and ASLM regarding a potential MOU on critical minerals, building off of an existing MOU with USGS.

**Iceland.** This meeting is in process.

**To:** Ryan Zinke[[cdr06@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cdr06@ios.doi.gov)]  
**From:** Boulton, Caroline  
**Sent:** 2018-05-09T17:30:56-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Electronic Briefing Book: 5.10.18  
**Received:** 2018-05-09T17:31:34-04:00  
[RKZ Daily Schedule 5.10.18.docx](#)  
[USDA Brief & Signing Event Memo.docx](#)  
[0508 fire.docx](#)  
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 5-9-18 2.docx](#)  
[5-9-18 Internal-External Forest Management Efforts Update.docx](#)

Attached is an additional fire update memo from Congressional Affairs.  
Caroline

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

**From:** Boulton, Caroline <[caroline\\_boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Wed, May 9, 2018 at 5:09 PM  
**Subject:** Electronic Briefing Book: 5.10.18  
**To:** Aaron Thiele <[aaron\\_thiele@ios.doi.gov](mailto:aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov)>, David Bernhardt <[REDACTED] (b)(6)>, Downey Magallanes <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>, Elinor Werner <[elinor\\_werner@ios.doi.gov](mailto:elinor_werner@ios.doi.gov)>, Holly Lane <[holly\\_lane@ios.doi.gov](mailto:holly_lane@ios.doi.gov)>, Laura Rigas <[Laura\\_Rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov)>, Leila Getto <[leila\\_getto@ios.doi.gov](mailto:leila_getto@ios.doi.gov)>, Luke Bullock <[wesley\\_bullock@ios.doi.gov](mailto:wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov)>, Matthew Dermody <[matthew\\_dermody@ios.doi.gov](mailto:matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov)>, Mike Argo <[michael\\_argo@ios.doi.gov](mailto:michael_argo@ios.doi.gov)>, Ryan Zinke <[cdr06@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cdr06@ios.doi.gov)>, Samantha Hebert <[samantha\\_hebert@ios.doi.gov](mailto:samantha_hebert@ios.doi.gov)>, Scott Hommel <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>, Todd Willens <[todd\\_willens@ios.doi.gov](mailto:todd_willens@ios.doi.gov)>

All,  
Attached is the briefing book and schedule for tomorrow.

Best,  
Caroline

**Daily Schedule**

<b>7:40am</b>	<b>Depart Residence en route USDA</b>
<b>7:55am</b>	<b>USDA/DOI Briefing to Members of Congress &amp; Joint Fire Signing Ceremony</b> Location: Williamsburg Room (104A) <i>Staff: Balash, Rupert, Heilemann, Lane</i>
<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Depart USDA en route Dirksen Senate Office Building</b>
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Senate Interior &amp; Environment Appropriations Subcommittee FY2019 Budget Hearing</b> Location: 138 Dirksen SOB <i>Staff: Tanner, Ferriter, Flanagan</i>
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Depart for Personal</b>
<b>RON</b>	<b>Philadelphia, PA</b>

--

Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403

--

Caroline Boulton  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.5403

## **USDA/DOI Joint Fire Event**

- Thank you Secretary Perdue for your hard work and cooperation on the issue of wildfires.
- 2017 was a historically bad year for wildfires in our country. Last fire season, **over 71,000 fires burned more than 10 million acres** across our country.
  - Fires in 2017 caused over **40 deaths** – the most since 1910.
  - Fires last year destroyed more than 12,000 structures, including **8,000 residences** and **Sperry Chalet in Glacier National Park** (built in 1914).
- 2018 is off to a rough start – wildfires continue to be a problem.
- As Secretary of the Interior, protecting our land and our people is one of my greatest responsibilities. Wildfires pose a serious risk to **property and human life**.
- Our forests are not being managed appropriately. We need to be able to remove the fuels before they become more of a hazard.
  - Active fuels management means clearing out the dead and dying timber. This is about healthy forests and healthy lands.
- Interior uses a variety of tools, **including drones**, to combat wildfires. I am especially pleased with how we have innovated our way to better fire safety with drone technology.

- It all comes down to supporting our firefighters and those on the front lines.
- As a Westerner, I know that often times in fighting wildfires, there is not much time to act. We need to recognize this.
- The Farm Bill will give Interior and the Department of Agriculture **the tools that our front lines need to do their job**.
  - As a retired Navy SEAL Commander, I can think of few things more important than supporting the front lines to achieve public safety.
- I look forward to continuing our collaboration with Secretary Perdue and the team at the Department of Agriculture.
- I would now like to introduce our interim Chief of the U.S. Forest Service Vicki Christiansen.

*CONFIDENTIAL – DELIBERATIVE, WORKING DOCUMENT*

**INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF**

**DATE:** May 9, 2018  
**FROM:** Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs  
**SUBJECT:** **Update on Internal and External Forest Management Efforts**

The purpose of this memo is to provide a status update about internal and external efforts to promote efficiencies within the forest management space, particularly in light of the 2018 wildfire outlook briefing for Congress that will be hosted by Secretary Perdue and Secretary Zinke tomorrow.

**The Omnibus**

On March 23, 2018, the President signed H.R. 1625, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, into law. Within the Omnibus package were several forest management reforms that accompanied a wildfire borrowing fix, which was a top priority for USDA.

Overall, the forest management activities section does not provide relief to barriers affecting implementation of active management of wildland fire or forest management by Interior bureaus. Most of the major provisions of the bill apply only to the Forest Service; some apply to the Forest Service and the BLM; one applies only to the BLM. They provide useful changes, but only of very limited scope.

As written, the Department continues to have issues making that case that the section that includes Categorical Exclusions (Sec. 202, amending Sec. 605 of HFRA of 2003) could be applied to the Department (specifically the BLM). Further, helpful provisions such as the hybrid Cottonwood fix are written in a way that only applies to BLM managed lands in Western Oregon for a limited period of time. The section on vegetation management of utilities Rights-of-Way does appear to be useful to both DOI and the Forest Service and closely models provisions in a bill the Secretary led while in Congress (H.R. 2358, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act).

**Ongoing Congressional Efforts**

On April 18, 2018, the House Committee on Agriculture advanced H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). This legislation includes a number of provisions that are substantially similar (or in some cases identical) to provisions included in H.R. 2936, Resilient Federal Forests (Rep. Westerman, R-AR), which the Department provided views on earlier this year. More specifically, H.R. 2 incorporates provisions from H.R. 2936 on Secure Rural Schools and a number of CXs. There are also changes to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and other additions. It should be noted that floor timing to advance this legislation remains tentative.

The CXs reflected in the legislation cover a wide range of interests and would offer the Department further flexibility as we look to foster healthy forests. An explanation of each is provided below.

**Sec. 8311. Categorical Exclusion to Expedite Certain Critical Response Actions**

Summary: This section would categorically exclude from preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) under section 102 of the National

Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) six specific “forest management activities,” including reducing hazardous fuels loads, and maintaining, enhancing or modifying critical habitat to protect it from catastrophic wildfires. Only the BLM and BLM-managed public lands are included in this section. Projects are limited to 6,000 acres.

**Sec. 8315. Categorical Exclusion to Improve or Restore National Forest System Lands or Public Land or Reduce the Risk of Wildfire**

Summary: Section 8315 would categorically exclude from preparation of an EA or EIS certain activities intended to reduce the risk of wildfire, including the removal of noxious or invasive weeds on Federal or State noxious weeds lists via late-season livestock grazing, targeted livestock grazing, prescribed burns, and mechanical treatments. Only the BLM and BLM-managed public lands are included in this section. Projects would be limited to 6,000 acres.

**Sec. 8316. Categorical Exclusion for Forest Restoration**

Summary: Under this section, activities undertaken to improve forest health and resiliency to disturbances, reduce hazardous fuels, and improve wildlife and aquatic habitat are categorically excluded from preparation of an EA or EIS. Timber harvests, hazardous fuels reduction, and prescribed burning, and are some of the activities included in Section 8316. Only the BLM and BLM-managed public lands are included in this section. Projects would be limited to 6,000 acres.

**Sec. 8317 Categorical Exclusion for Infrastructure Forest Management Activities**

Summary: This section categorically excludes from preparation of an EA or EIS infrastructure maintenance activities such as constructing, reconstructing, or decommissioning National Forest System roads and bridges, removing dams, or maintaining facilities through the use of pesticides. The Department’s bureaus are not included in this section.

**Sec. 8318. Categorical Exclusion for Developed Recreation Sites**

Summary: Activities carried out to construct, modify, or reconstruct facilities (e.g., toilets, parking areas, trails, boat landings, ski lifts, lodge rentals) at developed recreation sites carried out by the Secretary of Agriculture on National Forest System lands are categorically excluded from preparation of an EA or EIS.

The Department’s bureaus are not included in this section.

**Sec. 8319. Categorical Exclusion for Administrative Sites**

Summary: Activities carried out by the Secretary of Agriculture on National Forest System lands to construct, reconstruct, maintain, decommission, relocate or dispose of an administrative site are categorically excluded from preparation of an EA or EIS under this section. The Department’s bureaus are not included in this section.

**Sec. 8320. Categorical Exclusion for Special Use Authorizations**

Summary: This section would, among other activities, categorically exclude issuance or modification of a USFS special use authorization from preparation of an EA or EIS. The Department’s bureaus are not included in this section.

One of the issues we have identified with Title VIII of H.R. 2 is the Department is not extended the same authorities as the Forest Service. Following discussions with USDA political leadership and USFS staff, the Department’s Congressional and Legislative Affairs Office is seeking inclusion of other bureaus in any authorities granted to the USFS for expedited forest management within this bill. These conversations continue to unfold while also working jointly with the Senate Agriculture Committee on their Farm Bill efforts.



### **Ongoing Internal Efforts**

In an effort to foster increased dialogue coordination among agencies involved in forest management, the Department has held several meetings with USDA to focus on areas of unification between our departments. USDA is supportive of legislative CXs to increase efficiencies, and that includes the salvage CE we have formally submitted to OMB as a legislative proposal for the FY20 budget. Upon settling on specific reforms, we will then schedule a meeting with OMB to form our collective Administration position on any additional legislation that touches on forest management. The salvage CX remains our top priority.

Furthermore, internally, DOI is working on a number of Categorical Exclusions that promote proper fire management, reduce administrative red tape, and ensure proper management of federal land. These CEs will be accessible to all Bureaus within the Department and will make it easier for the the Department to reduce hazardous fuels, salvage timber, and engage in habitat restoration and post-fire rehabilitation. Collectively, these measures will promote healthy lands and protect human activity and interests.



THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

**Daily Schedule**

- 7:40am**            **Depart Residence en route USDA**
- 7:55am**            **USDA/DOI Briefing to Members of Congress & Joint Fire Signing Ceremony**  
Location: Williamsburg Room (104A)  
*Staff: Balash, Rupert, Heilemann, Lane*
- 9:00am**            **Depart USDA en route Dirksen Senate Office Building**
- 9:30am**            **Senate Interior & Environment Appropriations Subcommittee FY2019 Budget Hearing**  
Location: 138 Dirksen SOB  
*Staff: Tamer, Ferriter, Flanagan*
- 1:00pm**            **Depart for Personal**
- RON**                **Philadelphia, PA**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

WASHINGTON



**2018 Wildfire Outlook Briefing**

Thursday May 10, 2018

8:00am-9:00am

USDA—Williamsburg Room (104A)  
1400 Jefferson Ave SW - Washington, DC  
Prepared By: Holly Lane; 202-706-9330

---

**I. PURPOSE**

1) Secretary Zinke and Secretary Perdue will brief Members of Congress on the 2018 Wildfire Outlook. 2) USDA will be reporting on the implementation of newly acquired forest management tools delivered in the 2018 omnibus spending bill. 3) To explain the funding mechanism of the “fire funding fix” regarding fire suppression efforts. 4) To thank Congress for their efforts and to continue dialogue to foster the relationship of this bipartisan effort. 5) To discuss DOI’s efforts both internally and with Congress to efforts to promote efficiencies within the forest management space.

\*Please note the interagency letter is NOT an MOU.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Last year, USDA hosted a fire outlook briefing in order to focus Members of Congress on the need for a “fire funding fix”. This year’s briefing will recognize the efforts of Congress and will serve as an opportunity to set the stage for ongoing discussions on how USDA’s Forest Service plans to use new authorities to get more work done on the ground and discuss legislation and efforts to provide tools to help land management agencies reduce hazardous fuels, salvage timber, and engage in habitat restoration and post-fire rehabilitation. Collectively, these measures will promote healthy lands and protect human activity and interests.

**III. PARTICIPANTS**

Internal

The Secretary

The Honorable Joe Balash  
Mr. Jeff Rupert

Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management  
Director, Office of Wildland Fire

Ms. Tami Heilemann	Secretary's Photographer
Ms. Holly Lane	Secretary's Advance Representative

External

Secretary Sonny Perdue	Secretary of Agriculture
The Honorable Ken Barbic	Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
Ms. Vicki Christiansen	Interim Chief, US Forest Service, USDA

Members of Congress

Sen. Jim Risch (ID)  
 Sen. Mike Crapo (ID)  
 Sen. Dean Heller (NV)  
 Sen. Steve Daines (MT)  
 Sen. Jeff Merkley (OR)  
 Sen. Ron Wyden (OR)  
 Sen. Corey Gardner (CO)  
 Sen. Michael Bennet (CO)  
 Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-1)  
 Rep. Jared Huffman (CA-2)  
 Rep. Tom McClintock (CA-4)  
 Rep. Jim Costa (CA-16)  
 Rep. GT Thompson (PA-5)  
 Rep. Bruce Westerman (AR-4)  
 Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-1)  
 Rep. Greg Walden (OR-2)  
 Rep. Frank Lucas (OK-3)  
 Rep. Tom O'Halleran (AZ-1)

**IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

8:00AM	Secretary Perdue gives opening remarks and introduces THE SECRETARY
8:03AM	THE SECRETARY gives remarks
8:06AM	Secretary Perdue thanks THE SECRETARY and introduces Interim Chief of the Forest, Vicki Christiansen
8:07AM	Interim Chief Christiansen gives brief remarks and then presents the 2018 Wildfire Outlook Briefing
8:10AM	Roundtable Discussion, moderated by Ken Barbic, USDA-Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
8:50AM	Roundtable Concludes. The Members of Congress will gather behind THE SECRETARY and Secretary Perdue for the signing of the interagency letter.
8:55AM	THE SECRETARY will depart USDA immediately following the signing

**V. PRESS PLAN**

Open Press; Secretary Perdue will be hosting a press conference after we depart

**VI. TALKING POINTS**

Thank you Secretary Perdue for your hard work and cooperation on the issue of wildfires.

2017 was a historically bad year for wildfires in our country. Last fire season, over 71,000 fires burned more than 10 million acres across our country.

Fires in 2017 caused over 40 deaths – the most since 1910.

Fires last year destroyed more than 12,000 structures, including 8,000 residences and Sperry Chalet in Glacier National Park (built in 1914).

2018 is off to a rough start – wildfires continue to be a problem.

As Secretary of the Interior, protecting our land and our people is one of my greatest responsibilities. Wildfires pose a serious risk to property and human life.

Our forests are not being managed appropriately. We need to be able to remove the fuels before they become more of a hazard.

Active fuels management means clearing out the dead and dying timber. This is about healthy forests and healthy lands.

Interior uses a variety of tools, including drones, to combat wildfires. I am especially pleased with how we have innovated our way to better fire safety with drone technology.

It all comes down to supporting our firefighters and those on the front lines.

As a Westerner, I know that often times in fighting wildfires, there is not much time to act. We need to recognize this.

The Farm Bill will give Interior and the Department of Agriculture the tools that our front lines need to do their job.

As a retired Navy SEAL Commander, I can think of few things more important than supporting the front lines to achieve public safety.

I look forward to continuing our collaboration with Secretary Perdue and the team at the Department of Agriculture.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/9/2018**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Deputy White House Liaison

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

NEXT WEEK:

- 5/9: Cabinet Meeting
  - Preparation for Senate Interior Appropriations FY19 Budget Hearing
- 5/10: Joint Briefing with USDA for Members of Congress re: joint fire fighting
  - Testify in Senate Interior Appropriations Committee Hearing on FY19 Budget
- 5/11: Remarks at American Boating Congress Annual Advocacy Fly-in

**STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: Is in CA to tour DOI facilities and meet with staff and stakeholders.

**WH COMMS REPORT (Submitted 5/8)**

**Press Inquiries:**

- Many small and logistical inquiries.
- **E&E News** (Jennifer Yachnin) —**REQUEST**— Can you comment at all on the decision to send additional NPS law enforcement to both Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Amistad National Recreation Area? —**RESPONSE**— "President Trump and I are 100 percent committed to keeping our border communities and the American people safe and secure, which is why I'm deploying some of Interior's law enforcement officers to increase security on the southern border. Today's news is the first of many steps Interior will take to secure the homeland. Interior is ready, willing, and able to deploy a significant force to carry out the President's mission."
- **E&E News** (Mike Lee) —**REQUEST**— I'm working on a story about a request from Gov. Susana Martinez and five other western governors to streamline oil and gas permitting on federal lands. The idea has been around for a while, but the governors sent a letter to Sec. Zinke in January, with four specific requests. I spoke with Ken McQueen, Martinez's cabinet secretary for energy and minerals, at a conference today. He said the Interior Department could make a decision soon on one of the requests -- clearing up how to apply the categorical exclusions to the NEPA process that were included in the 2005 energy policy act. The governors believe the Interior Department could institute the policy by issuing an instructional memo; they included a draft memo with their request. McQueen said he's spoken to Katharine MacGregor, the deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals, and that the proposal is being reviewed by the Interior Department's attorneys. I'm trying to see if anyone at Interior can confirm what McQueen said and discuss the policy implications, etc. I'd also like to see if Interior is considering the other three requests the governors made. —**RESPONSE**— Sent to BLM
- **Law360** (Adam Lidgett) —**REQUEST**— My name is Adam Lidgett and I'm a reporter with Law360. I'm doing a story on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs saying in a notice to be posted in the Federal Register the Hopi Tribe's gaming compact with the state of Arizona is taking effect. I was looking to see if you had a comment on that. —**RESPONSE**— Sent to BLM
- **Law360** (Danielle Smith) —**REQUEST**— I'm working on a story about the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's letter backing the nomination of Tara Sweeney to be an assistant secretary for Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior. I was reaching out to see if anyone would like to discuss the matter with me or provide comment. —**RESPONSE**— TBD

**Top Stories:**

- **Washington Examiner:** [Secretary Ryan Zinke can get it right on western wildlife](#)
- **Breitbart:** [Interior Deploys Officers to Help Secure U.S. Border with Mexico](#)

**Notable Tweets:****Top Issues, Accomplishments & Awareness:**

- May 4-8 — Personal time.
- May 9 — Attend Cabinet Meeting.
- May 10 — Secretary Zinke will testify before the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee on the Budget and host a joint briefing with USDA for members of Congress regarding joint firefighting.
- May 11 — Deliver remarks at American Boating Congress Annual Advocacy Fly-in
- May 14 — Attend USDA/DOI Joint Fire Signing Ceremony as well as deliver remarks at DOI Secretarial Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony.
- May 16 — Host a conservation roundtable as well as a reception at Wolf Trap.
- May 18-30 — Secretary Zinke will travel through Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming to meet with Tribal Nations, National Park Service leadership, and deliver energy speeches.
  - Several meetings with Tribal Nations on the opioid crisis and other priorities
  - Speech at the Williston Basin Petroleum Council
  - National Park Service meetings on overcrowding and infrastructure

**AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 5/2)****WEEK AHEAD May 2 thru May 10, 2018**

Announcements/Releases/Events

**U.S. Department of the Interior***Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:*

- **May 9:** Secretary Zinke will attend the Cabinet Meeting
- **May 9:** Tara Sweeney (A/S Indian Affairs) is scheduled to appear before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for her confirmation hearing
- **May 10:** Secretary Zinke will testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee
- **May 10:** Secretary Zinke will attend USDA/DOI Joint Fire Signing Ceremony
- **May 10:** Secretary's personal trip to Philadelphia

- **May 14:** Secretary Zinke will deliver remarks at DOI Secretarial Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony.
- **May 16:** Secretary Zinke will host a conservation roundtable and later a reception at Wolf Trap.
- **May 18-30:** Secretary Zinke will travel through Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming to meet with Tribal Nations, National Park Service leadership, and deliver energy speeches:
  - Several meetings with Tribal Nations on the opioid crisis and other priorities
  - Speech at the Williston Basin Petroleum Council
  - National Park Service meetings on overcrowding and infrastructure

#### **SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **May 19: MONUMENTS:** In the Secretary's report to the President on the National Monuments review, the Secretary recommended that the President consider the designation of several new monuments. Two candidates mentioned were Camp Nelson in Kentucky and the Medgar Evers Home in Mississippi. Interior is developing a set of internal recommendations to release publicly which will guide monument designation processes. National Park Service staff is visiting Camp Nelson on May 19 as well as Medgar Evers to start the process.
- **TBD: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT RULEMAKINGS:** During the week of April 2, Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (collectively, the Services) transmitted two proposed rules to OMB that pertain to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Services are proposing revisions to which implements listing and critical habitat provisions found in section 4 of ESA. The proposed revisions would add a framework for interpreting foreseeable future; clarify that the standards for delisting, reclassification, and listing are the same; re-define and expand considerations determining that designating critical habitat is not prudent; and require that occupied habitat be evaluated before unoccupied habitat when designating critical habitat. In the second, the Services are proposing revisions, which implements consultation provisions found in section 7 of the Act. The proposed revisions would address alternative consultation mechanisms, clarify the phrase "effects of the action," revise the definition of "destruction or adverse modification," address certainty of mitigation proposed by action agencies, and otherwise improve the consultation process. In a third submission to OMB, FWS will transmit a proposed rule to remove the blanket 4(d) rule, which currently applies the endangered species protections to threatened species. The proposed regulations would require FWS to determine what, if any, protective regulations are appropriate for species that the Service in the future determines to be a threatened species on a case-by-case basis. This action would bring the regulation into the same application as NMFS currently applies it.

#### **Social Media**

- **May 10: DOI-level blog post:** Interior will publish a blog post about some of the hardworking moms in the animal kingdom in advance of Mother's Day.

#### **National Park Service**

- **May 7 - 10:** A NPS planning team will host several public meetings throughout the State of Mississippi as part of the civic engagement phase of a special resource study (SRS) looking at significant civil rights sites in Mississippi, including locations related to the life and murder of Medgar Evers, the lynching of Emmett Till and the murder of three freedom riders. The team will visit five different communities across the state containing resources that were identified in the legislation requiring the SRS. The study will evaluate the potential for inclusion of each site in the national park system based on whether it meets Congressionally-established criteria for significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management. Representatives from Congressman Bennie Thompson's office and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History are expected to participate in the public meetings. PEPC site: [https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MSCR\\_SRS](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MSCR_SRS).



- **May 7 – 10:** Glen Canyon National Recreation Area staff are participating in a four-day workshop hosted by BLM to discuss alternatives regarding the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and Kanab Field Office – Escalante Area Resource Management Plans. On April 10, the park and the BLM held its first cooperating agency meeting. The NPS agreed to be a cooperating agency during this planning effort with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area functioning as the NPS point of contact. Consolidated comments from all involved NPS park units were reviewed by the regional office and sent to the BLM on April 13.
- **May 8 – 9:** Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is hosting two public open house meetings to solicit public feedback related to visitor use management within the westernmost portion of the lakeshore. The public will be invited to comment online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website [https://parkplanning.nps.gov/PIRO\\_VUMplan](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/PIRO_VUMplan) between May 8 and June 6, 2018.
- **May 9: Local NPS Release:** Devils Postpile National Monument will announce the temporary summer closure to camping at its 20-site campground to accommodate expanded day-use. The campground area will be open for parking, picnicking, and provide improved river access for fishing. The monument will be developing a long-term plan for the campground to better meet visitor needs. Campers will be encouraged to use the six U.S. Forest Service campground located in the immediate vicinity of the park.
- **May 10:** Golden Spike National Historic Site is celebrating its 149th anniversary to mark the completion of the first transcontinental railroad. As part of that process, the park is working through concerns raised by the local (Utah) Chinese community regarding whether or not invitations should go to members of Taiwanese organizations, specifically, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in San Francisco. The TECO and other Taiwanese groups have been long-time supporters and regular participants in the ceremony which, in part, honors the 1860s era Chinese railroad workers. Representatives for the Utah Chinese Civic Center recommended that the NPS extended an invitation to the Chinese Consulate, which Superintendent Crossland is coordinating with the NPS Office of International Affairs; however, they implied that participation on behalf of the Chinese community would be limited based on continuing involvement from the TECO.
- **May 10 (tent.): Local NPS Release:** Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Bonnie Clare Road Reconstruction Environmental Assessment and FONSI. Reconstruction work is scheduled to start in August 2018 and be completed by May 2019. This will allow reopening of the northeast entrance to the park and restore public access to Scotty's Castle after massive damage from flooding in October 2015. [PEPC link.](#)
- **May 10 (tent.) Local NPS Release:** Death Valley National Park and the Ridgecrest BLM office anticipate opening a public comment period on the Keystone Mine Plan of Operations Amendment and accompanying Environmental Assessment. The mine is on BLM land near the park's western border, but the mining plan includes the use of water rights within the park.
- **May 10 (tent.):** Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Scotty's Castle Flood Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment and FONSI. This document analyzes repair work planned for historic structures, the cultural landscape, utilities, parking, and walkways to recover from damage from a flash flood in October 2015. The historic district is scheduled to reopen to the public in 2020. [PEPC link.](#)
- **May 10 – 11:** NPS will hold public forums and stakeholder sessions to present the [Savannah National Historic Landmark District Integrity & Assessment](#) report. Public comments on the report are also being accepted through June 30.
- **May TBD:** NPS plans to release a prospectus for five concession contracts to provide cruise ship services at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Two of the contracts are set aside for the two

historic operators identified through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) legislation. Cruise ship services contracts have been awarded since 1980 on a 10 year basis. New contract terms are similar to previous contracts, shaped in accordance with both Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve-specific legislation and NPS law and policy. Contracts will be awarded by late October, 2019. The prospectus is in final Department and Solicitor review.

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **May TBD: Local FWS Release:** FWS will release less than 14-day-old captive-born Mexican wolf pups into established wild Mexican wolf dens on federal land in Arizona and New Mexico. Arizona Game and Fish Department's Mexican wolf field team personnel (part of the Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team) lead the cross-fostering efforts in Arizona. New Mexico does not play a role except for providing permits to release cross-fostered pups into New Mexico. The window of opportunity is very narrow to identify pups born in captivity with a den of pups in the wild that are very close in age (under a week old). The Mexican wolf recovery team will only have a very short time (72 - 48 hours) to get a cross-foster mission lined up for execution. Because of that, in the draft news release to announce a successful cross-foster event, the dates in draft will be open. Select reporters will be invited to attend.
- **May TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS plans to send to the Federal Register a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2018-19 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open up to 28 various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the Federal Register notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach.

#### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **May TBD: National BLM Release** - Announcing Wild Horse and Burro 2018 Adoption Schedule – *Communications materials under development.*

#### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

- **May 9:** The Office of Renewable Energy Programs will be hosting a New York Bight Renewable Energy Intergovernmental Task Force meeting in NJ. Deputy ASLM Kate MacGregor and BOEM Acting Director Cruickshank expected to attend.
- **May 10:** Michelle Morin from the Office of Renewable Energy Programs will participate on the panel *Is Change in the Wind?* during the Infrastructure Review and Permitting Conference.
- **May 7-11:** Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping (GeoHab) 2018 Conference in Santa Barbara, CA. BOEM and USGS will sponsor and co-chair the annual conference and lead the International Scientific Committee. Session themes of interest include (1) Mapping, planning and impact assessment for ocean energy, (2) Marine Minerals: A new GeoHab frontier, (3) Seeps and hydrates, and (4) Deep water coral habitats. BOEM participation will include chairing select sessions, presentations and posters, and staffing an exhibit. Pacific OPA will support.
- **May TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM will announce that the Marine Minerals Program is developing a Draft Environmental Assessment for sand management activities in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, including geotechnical and geophysical surveys for resource identification, research studies, and monitoring borrow areas. In addition to the NTS, MMP staff will post the draft EA to the BOEM website by the end of May, and share with a targeted list of stakeholders for comment.

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **Between May 7 and 9:** Reclamation Deputy Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen will be in the Klamath Basin meeting with stakeholders. His focus will be rolling out draft principles for a comprehensive basin-wide water and resource management plan. Media interest is expected.

- **May 9:** The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (Integrated Plan) Implementation Committee will provide an Integrated Plan update briefing for the Integrated Plan DC Leadership Group. Meeting / briefing will be chaired by Assistant Secretary for Water and Science (ASWS) Tim Petty; with presentations and updates being given by Implementation Committee members (in person) and Reclamation Regional staff (via phone). Since 2013, the ASWS has facilitated bi-annual meetings of the Implementation Committee and DC Leadership Group, helping to advance Integrated Plan projects using State, federal, and private funding and collaboration.
- **May 8-11:** The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) will hold its spring conference, “2018: CA Water: Building for the Future,” in Sacramento. Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Austin Ewell and regional directors are scheduled to speak. ACWA is the nation’s largest statewide coalition of public water agencies with 430 public agency members responsible for 90 percent of the water delivered to California cities, farms and businesses. Media interest is expected.

#### **Office of Wildland Fire**

- **May TBD:** A Joint Direction letter will go to Wildland Fire Leadership to provide guidance on the upcoming fire season. Letter is currently under review and will be coordinated with USDA.

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- **May TBD: National USGS Release:** USGS scientists are publishing a paper examining the practical limits of an earthquake early warning system, but studying warning arrival times of a hypothetical quake in northern California. Will be published in Science Advances.
- **May TBD: New USGS Publication:** North American Net Import Reliance of Mineral Materials for Advanced Technologies: The U.S. Geological Survey and Natural Resources Canada conducted a study on the net import reliance of the United States, Canada, and Mexico as individual countries and as a single trading bloc for twelve nonfuel mineral commodities that are associated with advanced technology products. The minerals are cadmium, cobalt, gallium, germanium, graphite, indium, lithium, nickel, rare earths, selenium, silver, and tellurium.

#### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

- Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Tony Dearman will speak at a meeting with Congressman Schaefer, congressional staffers regarding a letter sent to DOI from the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 5/1)**

**2017 COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF OCS OIL & GAS RESOURCES REPORT TO CONGRESS:** This report is required by Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide a report to Congress within 6 months of the date of enactment (i.e., Aug. 8, 2005), with updates at least every 5 years.

**Timing:** April 2018

**Contact:** Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

**UPCOMING SENR OVERSIGHT HEARING:** The Senate on Energy and Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining is holding an oversight hearing to examine the law enforcement programs at the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service, coordination with other federal, state and local law enforcement, and the effects on rural communities.

**Timing:** May 9, 2018

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster and Blake Deeley, Advisors, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING SCIA CONFIRMATION HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will hold a confirmation hearing for Tara Sweeney, nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.

**Timing:** May 9, 2018

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING FY19 BUDGET HEARING:** The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will be holding a hearing on the FY19 budget. The Secretary will be the witness.

**Timing:** May 10, 2018

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING SCIA OVERSIGHT HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will hold an oversight hearing on Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school safety and efforts to implement Office of Inspector General and Government Accountability Office recommendations that pertain to student safety.

**Timing:** May 16, 2018

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Susan Combs (A/S PMB) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) were reported out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources by voice vote on January 30. They were both placed on the Senate calendar and were hot lined on February 7. There were objections by Democrats. We are encouraging Senate leadership to file cloture and hold a floor vote on these nominees.

- Steve Gardner (OSM) was renominated in January after being sent back to the WH at the end of December. We are still working with Mr. Gardner on some questions with the Office of Government Ethics.
- Tara Sweeney (A/S Indian Affairs) is scheduled to appear before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for her confirmation hearing on May 9.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

**PUBLIC LANDS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND/NATIONAL PARK RESTORATION ACT:** DOI continues the ongoing process of supporting the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, which was included in both the President's FY19 Budget and the Infrastructure proposals. On March 6, 2018, DOI testified at a House Natural Resources oversight hearing on the maintenance issue, highlighting the need for maintenance updates on public lands. On March 7, the Secretary joined Senators Alexander, Daines, Capito, Gardner and Tillis to introduce language that was built off of the FY19 Budget proposal, the National Parks Restoration Act. The bill has bipartisan, bicameral support. On March 20, 2018, the NPS Deputy Director, Daniel Smith testified before the House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee on the bill. On April 17, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing to Examine Deferred Maintenance and Operational Needs of the National Park Service. A legislative hearing on the bill text is expected soon, but nothing has been scheduled.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**REORGANIZATION AND UNIFIED REGIONAL BOUNDARIES:** Secretary Zinke has informally notified the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding FY18 implementation of new shared regional boundaries across Interior's bureaus. Formal notification is planned for mid May following the FY19 appropriations committee hearings, which would trigger a 30 day clock, at the end of which DOI believes it can move ahead, absent express Congressional opposition. Presently, each of the 10 bureaus have different geographic boundaries for regional offices. The new approach has bureaus share unified boundaries based on watersheds, often adjusted to the nearest state line boundaries. Implementing

unified regions will improve the timeliness and appropriateness of decision making in the field, by allowing senior managers to focus on the same geography. Interior is implementing a comprehensive Congressional, gubernatorial, employee, and stakeholder communications strategy to demonstrate the advantages of this approach. The FY19 budget also speaks to moving parts of the headquarters of BLM, FWS, and Reclamation westward. Interior successfully worked with the appropriations committee majority staff to avoid an effort by the minority to put unnecessarily restrictive limitations on the reorganization in the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations act.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Susan Combs, Senior Advisor to the Secretary Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

**SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS (updates in bold)**

**Accepted:**

5/10 – SEAL Family Foundation “Families First” Philadelphia Gala (Philadelphia, PA)  
 5/11 - National Marine Manufacturers Association’s American Boating Congress Annual FlyIn (DC)  
 5/13 – National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Vigil (DC)  
 5/14 DOI Law Enforcement Ceremony (DC)  
 5/16 – Wolf Trap Foundation Congressional Reception (DC)  
 5/23 - Remarks at Williston Basin Petroleum 26th Annual Conference (Bismarck, ND)  
 6/1 - Ducks Unlimited Annual Convention (Indianapolis, IN)  
 6/12 - USMC Sunset Parade Guest of Honor (DC)  
 6/12 - National Park Foundation's 50th Anniversary Event (DC)  
 6/25-27 - Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Rapid City, SD)  
 7/3 - Grand Opening of the Gateway Arch (St. Louis, MO)  
 7/4 - DOI's Independence Day Reception (DC)  
 8/10-11 Steamboat Institute Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat, CO)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

**Outstanding Invitations in Process:**

5/18 Remarks at Laffer Associates 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington Conference (DC)  
 5/30-31 Montana Energy Summit (Billings, MT)  
 5/31-6/2 – Civil War Trust 2018 Annual Conference (Newport News, VA)  
 6/3-5 Annual Coal and Investment Leadership Forum (Bristow, VA)  
 6/3-6 National Congress of American Indians Midyear Conference (Kansas City, MO)  
 6/4 Close up Foundation (DC)  
 6/8 Annual Victims of Communism Wreath Laying Ceremony (DC)  
 6/14 Yosemite National Park Mariposa Grove Dedication Ceremony (CA)  
 6/5 South Central Industrial Association Annual Banquet (Houma, LA)  
 6/15 Corps Network Annual Great Outdoors Day of Service event (DC)  
 6/15 Klamath Community College Commencement (Klamath Falls, OR)  
 6/15 Latino Coalition Small Business Rising Summit (Irvine, CA)  
 6/16 Montana Youth Challenge Graduation  
 6/16 Arlington/Fairfax Izaak Walton League of America and Club Run Archers Annual Charity Fundraiser (Centerville, VA)  
 6/19 Farm Bureau Western Region Conference (Kalispell, MT)

6/20-22 US Department of Commerce Investment Conference (National Harbor, MD)  
6/22 Music at the Monument (DC)  
6/25-29 World Gas Conference (DC)  
7/9 Yellow Ribbon Fund Annual Golf Tournament (Arlington, VA)  
7/11 North American Outfitter Association (Bozeman, MT)  
7/14 Wildlife 2018 (San Antonio, TX)  
7/17-18 Domestic Energy Producers Alliance Meeting (DC)  
7/23-24 Conference of Western Attorney General Annual Meeting (Bernalillo, NM)  
8/21-22 Remarks at Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Energy Summit (Denver, CO)

**Declining:**

5/9 – Association of California Water Agencies (Sacramento, CA)  
5/9-11 Colorado Forum (DC)  
5/9-11 Chinese Railroad Workers Descendants Association Conference (Salt Lake City, UT)  
5/15 Honor our Heroes Day (Montana)  
5/16-19 Mansfield Water Summit (Whitefish, Montana)  
5/18 National Capital Friends of NRA Banquet (Arlington, VA)  
5/19 Crystal Gala in the Park (Glen Echo, MD)  
5/21-24 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Meeting (Toppenish, WA)  
5/22 Easter Seals Advocacy Awards (DC)  
5/24 – Surety & Fidelity Association of America's Annual Meeting (DC)  
5/27 Rolling Thunder Demonstration Run (DC)  
5/30 Arizona Mining Annual Meeting & Golf Tournament (Tucson, AZ)  
6/2 Battle of Midway 76<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Ceremony (HI)  
6/3-8 Montana American Legion Boys State for the 2018 session (Helena, MT)  
6/4-6 Investment Migration Forum (Kempinski, MT)  
6/12 Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (Charleston, SC)  
6/14 Montana Stock growers Association Midyear Meeting (Dillion, MT)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**N/A**

**OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)**

**Zinke Wanted A New National Monument In Kentucky, So Congress Is Making It Happen.**

The [Daily Caller](#) (5/8, Pearce) reports that “a Republican bill to designate a new national monument in Kentucky would memorialize the spot of a Civil War-era Army camp that trained 10,000 African-American soldiers fighting for the Union.” GOP Rep. Andy Barr authored the legislation to create the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument. The bill “passed the House Natural Resources Committee Tuesday in a bipartisan vote, and the legislation now awaits a vote by the full House.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “recommended Camp Nelson be designated a national monument after concluding a review of the largest national monuments created under the Antiquities Act of 1906.”

**Ryan Zinke And The Tale Of Two Fish.**

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/8, D'angelo) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is pushing for a restructuring of his department. Zinke said at an Earth Day event in Texas last month, “If you can imagine a company or organization that hasn't reorganized in 150 years, welcome to the Department of the Interior.” To illustrate the complexities of the federal bureaucracy, Zinke told “a story about the

challenges of overseeing a single body of water and the wildlife in it.” He said, “Let’s say you have a trout and a salmon in the same stream. It happens all the time. Upstream you have a dam, downstream you use it for irrigation, and that stream passes by a Forest Service holding. So this is how we manage it. The salmon are actually managed by the Department of Commerce through [the National Marine Fisheries Service]. The trout is managed by me through [the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service]. Upstream, water temperature and flows is generally the Army Corps of Engineers, unless it’s a hydro plant and then it’s Bureau of Reclamation ...” However, “details of his plan remain scarce, aside from promises to push more staff and resources away from Washington – to the ‘front lines,’ as Zinke says – and vows to manage land and wildlife based on ‘ecosystems, watersheds and science,’ rather than state borders.”

#### **Feds Sending Small Number Of Officers To Border.**

In continuing coverage, the [AP](#) (5/8) reports the Interior Department will send 22 law enforcement officers to Arizona and Texas to assist in border security.

#### **Chamber Backs Trump Pick For DOI Indian Affairs Role.**

[Law360](#) (5/8, Smith) reports that “the U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrote to a Senate committee Tuesday in support of President Donald Trump’s nomination of Tara Sweeney to be assistant secretary for Indian Affairs within the U.S. Department of Interior, asking the committee to report favorably after its hearing on the nomination the following day.”

#### **NYS Officials: East End Shouldn’t Be Considered For Wind Farms.**

[Newsday](#) (NY) (5/8, Harrington) reports New York State officials “will urge the federal government to exclude coastal areas off the Hamptons shore line from consideration for offshore wind farms.” A public meeting was held Monday in Southampton “to discuss the state’s blueprint for offshore wind development and proposed offshore area maps,” where officials with the state “discussed reasons for removing a large proposed East End wind-farm area from federal consideration, including visual and fishing impacts.” Last month, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management “released the maps for proposed New York areas...seeking comments and proposals.” BOEM “will accept comments through May 29.”

#### **Abandoned Mines Across State To Get \$55M In Cleanup Money.**

[NPR](#) (5/8, Frazier) reports that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will “spend \$55 million on abandoned mine cleanup projects around the state.” The projects will “go toward treating polluted mine water, stabilizing unsafe mine lands, and putting out underground mine fires.” The money comes from the federal Abandoned Mine Lands fund. Also reporting is the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (5/8, Erdley).

#### **Wyden: GAO Finds Issues In Wildlife Trafficking Fight.**

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (5/8) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden on Tuesday announced findings “from an independent investigation he sought showing that government agencies responsible for protecting endangered species are failing to effectively use authority Congress provided to combat wildlife trafficking in the United States.” According to the article, “a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation requested by Wyden found the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are underusing financial incentives meant to encourage whistleblowers to come forward with information to stop illegal wildlife trafficking.” Wyden said, “The Government Accountability Office’s investigation shows the agencies responsible for combating wildlife trafficking and protecting endangered species are simply not doing enough. At a

minimum, the agencies must begin using the authority Congress has given them to truly encourage whistleblowers to come forward and report illegal smuggling and harvesting at our borders and in our backyards." Also reporting is the [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press \(5/8\)](#).

**Bill Aimed At Promoting Tourism And Economic Prosperity To Region.**

The [Alamogordo \(NM\) Daily News \(5/8\)](#) reports that Sen. Martin Heinrich on Monday introduced the White Sands National Park Establishment Act, "a bill to designate White Sands National Monument as New Mexico's newest national park." Heinrich said, "The vision to create White Sands National Park has been driven by a diverse coalition of community leaders and local elected officials for years. By elevating White Sands National Monument to a national park, we can help boost the local economy and ensure the monument receives the recognition it deserves, while enhancing the military mission at WSMR."

**Yellowstone Visitors Spent Nearly \$500M In Neighboring Towns.**

The [AP \(5/8\)](#) reports that "a recent report says visitors to Yellowstone National Park spent nearly \$500 million last year in neighboring towns to the wilderness recreation area." According to the article, "a visitor spending analysis by economists with the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey says the figure was about \$499 million, a fraction of the \$18.2 billion spent nationwide near national parks in 2017." The study "estimates the \$499 million supported about 7,350 jobs in towns on the park's outskirts in Montana and Wyoming."

**Officials: Acadia Visitors Spent \$284 Million Last Year.**

The [AP \(5/8\)](#) reports that "a National Park Service study says visitors at Acadia National Park last year spent an all-time high of \$284 million." The park "attracted about 3.5 million recreation visits last year, an increase of 6.2 percent compared to 2016." According to officials, "the local economy received a cumulative benefit of about \$338 million."

**National Park Service Meets With Mississippians As It Examines Key Civil Rights Sites For Possible Designation.**

[WDBD-TV Jackson, MS \(5/8, Clark\)](#) reports that the National Park Service is "meeting with Mississippians this week as it examines key civil rights sites for possible designation as a national park area." Ben West, southeast regional chief for planning, said, "The study itself is really focused on if these places made a specific criteria that then make them appropriate to be included or recommended to be included in the National Park system. The study will not designate the home or anything like that. It is only information to give to Congress or the president for later designation." Also reporting is [WDAM-TV Hattiesburg, MS \(5/8, Howard\)](#).

**FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

REG0008221 BOE List of Restricted Joint Bidders - The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) publishes the Spring 2018 List of Restricted Joint Bidders as required by its regulations governing joint bidding. The List will cover the period from May 1, 2018, through October 31, 2018, and will replace the prior list published in November 2017. Notice 05/08/2018

REG0008219 BOR Quarterly Status Report of Water Service, Repayment, and Other Water-Related Contract Actions -- This is a quarterly notice of contractual actions proposed to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) that are new or that have been discontinued or completed since the publication of the last quarterly notice. Notice 05/08/2018



REG0008091 FWS Otay River Estuary Restoration Project, South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, California; Final Environmental Impact Statement -- The Final EIS describes the alternatives identified to restore two portions of the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge (San Diego County, California) to coastal wetlands to benefit native fish, wildlife, and plant species. Notice 05/08/2018

REG0008109 FWS Reclassifying Tobusch Fishhook Cactus from Endangered to Threatened and Adopting a New Scientific Name -- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reclassifying Tobusch fishhook cactus, an endemic plant of the Edwards Plateau of central Texas, from an endangered to a threatened species under the ESA. Final Rule 05/08/2018

REG0008143 FWS Endangered and Threatened Species; Issuance of Enhancement of Survival and Incidental Take Permits January 2, 2017, through December 29, 2017 -- This notice, required by section 10(d) of the Endangered Species Act, provides a list to the public of the permits the Service issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) and 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. Notice 05/08/2018

REG0008213 OSM Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program (PA-165-FOR) -- The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) announces its receipt of a proposed amendment to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (AMLR) Plan. The OSMRE will accept written comments for 30 days and public hearing requests for 15 days. Proposed Rule 05/08/2018

REG0008183 OST Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Trust Evaluation System - This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) is proposing a new collection of information pertaining to the Trust Evaluation System (TES). The OST is requesting public comments on the proposed collection for 30 days. Notice 05/08/2018